



# FR. PEDRO ARRUPE, SJ WRITING CHALLENGE



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## WHAT IS THE PEDRO ARRUEPE, 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 Jesuit community

# **THE PEDRO ARRUEPE, SJ WRITING CHALLENGE AWARDS BREAKFAST**

## **WELCOME & PRAYER**

Fr. Tim McMahon, SJ

## **BREAKFAST EMCEE**

Michael O'Hagan

## **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**

Barb Astuno  
Ed Clements  
Amy Coleman  
Stephan Graham  
Shannon Hayes  
Beth Mittelstaedt  
Reed Mittelstaedt

Debbie O'Dwyer  
Brooke O'Drobinak  
Vianney Rodriguez  
Kim Smith  
Megan Turilli  
Gene Wiggs  
Beth Zoellner

### **CHALLENGE SPONSOR**

The Zimmerman Family Foundation

John Templeton Foundation

# WINNERS AND PRIZES

## 1ST PLACE

*Anne Zimmerman*  
Scholarship  
Lorena Delgado, *Class of 2018*

## 2ND PLACE

*The Zimmerman Family*  
Scholarship  
Anthony Tran, *Class of 2015*

## 3RD PLACE

*The Zimmerman Family*  
Scholarship  
Martha Kibozi, *Class of 2015*

## FINALISTS

Berenice Aviña  
Monica Coria  
Rebecca Leyva Hernandez  
Valeria Gomez  
DeMarco Randall  
Elijah Chavez  
Angela Strohmeier

# PROFILE OF THE ARRUPPE JESUIT 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.

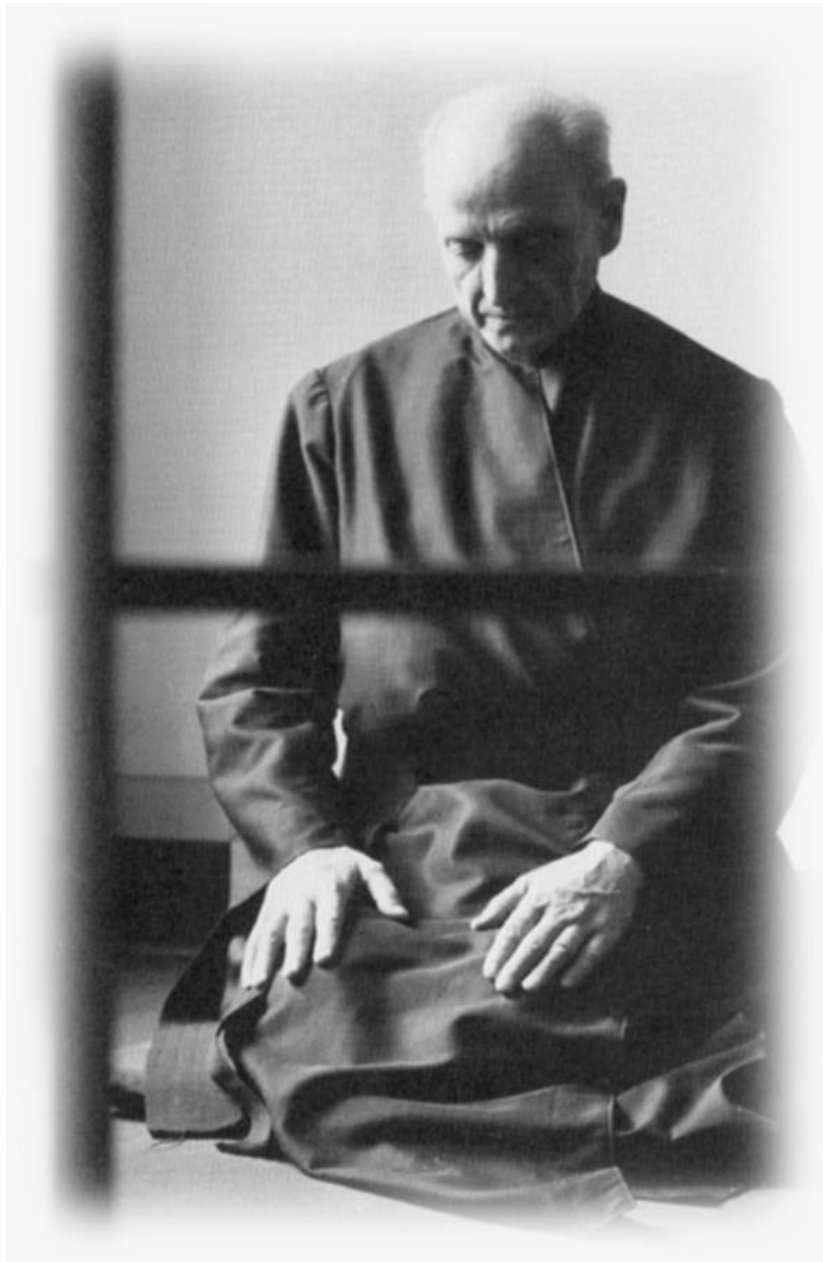
### **ELEVENTH: *Choices.***

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 ARRUIPE, SJ WRITING  
CHALLENGE WINNING  
& FINALIST ESSAYS



# 1ST PLACE

LORENA DELGADO

CLASS OF 2018

**“Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.” Matthew 6: 7**

There are times when I ask myself if I would be able to forgive someone who hurt me deeply. Could I just walk by the assassin of my son and do nothing but wish him well? There is good will, kindness, and love all around us even if it's blind to our eyes. Unconsciously acts of generosity are done. Martin is a friend from my parish that I admire deeply for his compassion and will. He taught me a new meaning of forgiveness and will.

On an evening that everyone thought normal, 16-year-old Martin Jr. went to the store to buy groceries for his family. He was riding his bike when the night started to creep after him. He noticed an outlandish environment around him as he continued his way home. The air thickened and time froze as the Earth came to a sudden stop. The streets were clear despite the fact it was October 31, 2007, a time when the streets should be filled with kids for Halloween. Suddenly a truck drove by, and at that instance he knew tragedy would behold him. Martin Jr. was mistaken for a gang member, and was shot dead by a drive-by. This incident happened near West 76th Avenue and Turner Drive at 9:45 P.M. Martin took his son to Mexico so he would be buried in his homeland. Three years later Martin returned to the U.S. for the court trial. At this trial with a heart full of pain Martin told his son's assassin, “I am nobody to condemn you, but may God forgive you for what you have done. I will pray for you.” These words and actions are what truly demonstrate his act of good will.

It really comes to prove that God's will even existed in tragic moments like this one. Martin was faced with a challenge that many, including myself, would not have been able to face, but because he got his strength from God, who is nothing but compassion, he forgave the assassin. In 1 Corinthians 10:13 it states, “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” *God will not hand you a challenge he does not think you can handle. Before I would think that some things were impossible and that there was no way out. Now I can stop to see that there is good in everything. God acts in many different ways but never to harm us although at moments it may not seem that way. I remember that before this incident I would always think that bad things only happened to bad people. But now I have realized that that isn't true; mishaps also happen to good people in order for them to get closer to God. Just because a misfortune occurs to us doesn't mean God hates us but rather what's important is how we overcome it. I now know that, like Martin, in order to approach a mishap one must face it with compassion, love, and generosity. Two years ago I would question God's actions and now I have learned to accept them without asking why.*

I have personally grown into the understanding of God's love because now I see that God acts in many different ways. I have become more compassionate and willing to forgive. I recognize

that before if someone pushed me I would seek revenge, and put into practice the old saying of “an eye for eye and tooth for tooth.” Now, after the lesson that Martin gave me, I know that it is possible to let go and forgive. God’s will is done through us and no matter how much we resist, it will still be done.

“Blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy” (Matthew 6:7). I think that the overall goal of every human being is to reach God’s glory. Through acts of kindness, compassion, love, service, and generosity I think it is possible. I find it overwhelming that Martin probably did not realize that with his act of forgiveness he changed my perspective of good will, kindness, and love. God has a meaning for everything; probably Martin didn’t know what was the purpose of his son’s death, but I sure do. Everything is connected and life is a ripple effect. What ends for some people starts for others. This occurrence has truly opened my eyes to see life and God’s love in a different perspective that has helped me live life to the fullest.

## 2ND PLACE

ANTHONY TRAN

CLASS OF 2015

Learning how to be a man for others is a big reason for me wanting to come to Arrupe in the first place. I wanted to learn not only how to help others, but also why it was important. During my time at Arrupe, I learned that there are multiple ways and reasons to help others, both less and more fortunate than myself.

As a freshman, I was the less fortunate. It was my first day going to my jobsite and I was lost and alone in downtown Denver. Fortunately for me, Jason and Diego found me wandering around the 16th Street Mall. They showed me how to find my building and get there. As Lady Luck would have it, I was in the same building as Diego! Thanks to them, I was able to get to work on time and understand what it takes to be an Arrupe student. From this experience, I learned that simple things can go a long way in people’s lives. Giving directions, smiling, holding open a door, being friendly. They are all simple easy things that people look over, yet are taken with gratitude because you are acknowledging them as another human being.

As a sophomore, I was the more fortunate assisting another person. It was a terribly cold, windy, rainy night. I was walking home from the bus stop after a long day at school. I saw a woman trying to shield herself and her child underneath a tree from the elements. I was tired and wanted to go home so I paid no attention to it and continued walking. As I was standing for the stoplight, I found myself still thinking about the woman. I had a big puffy jacket that kept me warm to the point of overheating. I immediately turned around and ran towards the woman. I took off my jacket and gave it to her so her child and her could be warm. I did this knowing I would get an earful from my mom for freely giving away an expensive jacket. However I had a surplus of jackets and knew the jacket would be put to better use with the woman than with me. Being a man for others is a choice. I could have continued on my way home and never think about the woman again. I have to have the confidence to do the right thing even if I will be punished for it.



As a Junior, I was a group assistant during the Freshman retreat. I worked all day with the freshmen. Getting to know them, understanding them. Freshman are misunderstood because they don't really understand what is going on. By understanding their mindset, one begins to realize why their behavior is the way it is. The same can be applied to others. For example, most people assume a singular homeless man has a drug addiction, or is an alcoholic or a gambler. When in reality, a bank took all of his possessions and he has no one to fall back upon, As a person for others, understanding another person and the circumstances of their situation are just as important as helping them.

Now as a Senior, I have began to learn what it means to be grateful. Gratitude is simply an acknowledgement of the effort someone has put in to assist you. Sadly, gratitude is taken for granted and is expected so it no longer holds the same value as it used to. However, for those who are less fortunate, they truly know how to express gratitude. They have nothing; when someone acknowledges them and helps them achieve something that helps enrich their lives, they are truly grateful.

Throughout my four years at Arrupe, I learned that being a man for others is a choice. In order to fully help a person as I am capable of, I must understand not only their present needs, but also their background. Sometimes the best thing isn't going all out and giving them a home, but rather smiling, saying hello, taking the time out of my day to talk to them. Acknowledging that they are human and have the same rights and power as everyone else. Taking that into the future, I can better help not only groups, but also individuals who seek assistance. Helping others is what makes me want to enter the field of physical therapy. I can help rehabilitate those who are physically impaired to a good as new lifestyle.

3RD PLACE

MARTHA KIBOZI

CLASS OF 2015

The first time I heard that phrase was in 2011 at my freshman orientation.

"Being a man and woman for others." I could not believe that these people, this school was entrusting me with those words.

"Being a man and woman for others." How could they possibly believe that I could be capable of such a huge responsibility? How could I or would I ever make a difference in someone's life?

"Being a man and woman for others," I said one last time. At that moment I thought to myself that I would not let my teachers and my school down.

I didn't exactly know what being a man and woman for others meant but Arrupe did advertise

doing volunteer service and helping others out as an example. So I decided to join Philanthropy in Action also known as Generals for Justice.

My first volunteer work with Philanthropy in Action was at the Denver Catholic Workers Soup Kitchen. This is a non-profit organization solely run on volunteers' help. The volunteers would come in early in the morning to help cook lunch for about nine hundred homeless men and woman at St. Francis Center. There were different stations set up to cut vegetables and fruits, pack utensils and make the soup of the day. The moment I walked into the building I was amazed at all the people that showed up to give back. It was a glorious moment for me to see that there were people in Colorado that truly cared about the poor and less fortunate around us and that were doing something to try to make a difference. I was assigned to help the group of three at the fruit station.

I remember the story of one woman, named Naomi, that was standing across from me cutting apples. She was a refugee that had recently moved to America from Rwanda. She had seen some very terrible things happen in her country from Genocide to bombing. I asked her why it was so important for her to give back to the community despite all the unpleasant events that occurred in her own life. I will never forget the response she gave me. She told me that in Christianity, Jesus teaches us to love our neighbors. Many people interpret this quote as helping the people that live right next door to us or in our neighborhood. But everyone on this earth is our neighbor and that includes the poor, homeless and less fortunate. I really didn't understand at the time what Naomi meant but it touched something in me. Something that I would sooner understand in the future.

After preparing all the food, we packed it up into 5 SUVs and drove down to St. Francis Center to serve it to the guests. I was put in charge of serving the desserts. As the guests came up to get their food they had the biggest smiles on their faces. They were thanking us for taking the time to give back. At that moment, the same feeling I felt talking to Naomi came back. I realized what that feeling was: I was feeling love and compassion for the work I was doing. I didn't want the feeling to go away and I realized that this is what I want to do. I want to spend my life helping those that are less fortunate than me.

Through my four years at Arrupe, I definitely have learned a lot from my volunteer work, from the people that live in Colorado to the problems we are facing today in our society. After Arrupe I plan to go to college and continue my philanthropy journey. I hope one day to be a licensed doctor so I can go on missionary trips to developing countries and give free healthcare to the families living there. God put me on this earth for a reason and I plan to dedicate my time here on earth helping individuals, families and communities.

# FINALIST

BERENICE AVIÑA

CLASS OF 2018

Experiencing the opportunity to be part of a remarkable church is one of the most life changing experiences I've ever been through. Holy Trinity isn't only a great parish but its people are some of the nicest, cheerful people I have ever met. Being part of my church has shown me God's way in kindness, love and good will. I have been a member of that parish since I was six years old. I'm very grateful for knowing people who have helped me and who have made me see things differently. Not only have I done my confirmation at Holy Trinity, but I'm a young apostle there and continuing my faith.

When I first got involved with my church, other than going to mass, I was in my first year of confirmation. Honestly, it wasn't my intention to get involved with the church. My first year was enjoyable because I had two very fun high school teachers. The start of second year was when I realized the importance of being kind and helpful. It is important to have those values and many more so you can become a woman and man for others. For example, becoming more helpful is one way to become a better person and realizing what is right. Other than learning about my faith I spent time doing service projects. I had plenty of memorable, fun times in confirmation class. I then started seeing my future involved with my church and being in God's will.

During the year, I realized how fortunate I was for everything the church offered me. One person who has changed my life is Nancy. Other than being the leader of youth activities, she was a friend to me who always helped me grow in my faith. Nancy cared for all the young people; she helped me through many rough times. I am very thankful to have someone so amazing and caring in my life. Throughout my confirmation I have made many wonderful, supportive friends. We were all inspired to continue our Catholic faith in our church. Gladly, we still are part of our parish by being young apostles and teaching middle school kids about God. These people had affected me in more than one way: to live, spread, and defend my faith.

Confirmation means to live your life helping others with service. Nancy had us do service projects in many places. For example one time she took us to Mother Cabrini to help the nuns by washing their clothes and cleaning their closets. That experience taught me how to be a generous and joyful person so I can appreciate everything in my life. I found growth in my faith as a caring and loving person. I believe that through all of the service projects, the church made me aware of how important it is to do everything with an open and graceful heart. I noticed that once I became more apparent to people, I was surrounded with their love and kindness. Service is an amazing experience that in which I happily want to continue throughout my life.

When confirmation retreat came, I was full of excitement. We went up to the mountains, to the YMCA of the Rockies. We did all sort of thrilling stuff like: sang songs, played games, heard different testimonies about our faith and experienced Eucharistic Adoration. I got to bond with all sorts of people. Being there with people who really care about you is one of the most amazing things about Confirmation. My life changed after the retreat; I became involved more with service and volunteer work; I always tried my best in helping those in need. I spread my

experience of confirmation and I became more joyful.

Confirmation changed the way I thought of my faith and myself. I found myself becoming a Catholic leader for my church. I trust that God's intention was for me to get closer to him by opening my heart. I became more of a trusting and kind person because of the love which I receive from my friends. Generosity is a powerful virtue in which I am proud to say, has helped me grow in many amazing ways. I now understand how God's will has changed me to become a more graceful and respectful person and why. I am blessed with being reached by God's glory and his graceful love. I hope to continue my journey in life while experiencing many acts of kindness, love and good will.

FINALIST

MONICA CORIA

CLASS OF 2017

To be a man and woman for others means that you have to put others before yourself. The lesson that Pedro Arrupe has always taught us is to be a valuable member of society and to be a person who emulates the values of Christ. My first thought of being a man and woman for others was to do service for the needy or helpless and asking nothing in return. In my very first day of class I did not know where to go. I entered the building and stood in the middle of the lobby, without knowing where to get my schedule. I asked one of the students that was arriving where should I go and she told me that they were giving out the schedules in the gym. I went to get my schedule and headed to where my locker was. This connected with my understanding of Pedro Arrupe's message because I was helped even though the student and I did not know each other by that time. Serving in Pedro Arrupe's message can certainly change how people see our community. Pedro Arrupe was a man well known for being a man and woman for others and being in peace.

As my time here in Arrupe flies by, my perspective of what being a man and woman for others means has not changed. Showing random acts of kindness can really make a difference in how people view humanity in a positive way. I still believe that being a man and woman for others is to support any one that you come across that is in need of your help. For example volunteering to help out with anything shows that you're providing your time and effort into helping. You are sacrificing. For example, since my freshman year at Arrupe I have always volunteered at the Soup Kitchen. By doing this, I'm providing a service to homeless. I am giving my time up for that person and that's what being a man and woman for others really means, Helping the poor and showing my peers support is one of my priorities in being a giving person and not thinking about myself. A good person that is genuine about helping and showing care is what I try to model myself after.

I have grown into a better person from these experiences today by realizing that giving just a little bit of time and effort can change a person's life. Being a man and woman for others has, for me, served as a benchmark for my personal growth because of the amalgamation of Pedro Arrupe's message and my personal understanding of my service to others. I have come to realize that after I have served in the name of Christ that I would try and strive to be a well

rounded, motivated, and driven person to serve others. Before learning Pedro Arrupe's message, I thought I was the center of the universe; I thought no one needed help. Now, I know that I am not as important as I thought I was because to be a man and woman for others you have to put others in front of you. This gives hope to the people that need us because they see no solutions in how we as a people function in a society of unjust and dishonest members, and by being a man and woman for others we make them feel appreciated and loved, and we feel happy with ourselves!

## FINALIST

REBECCA LEYVA HERNANDEZ      CLASS OF 2015

The differences that have taken place in our community first started off with an idea. After a while, that idea expanded and reached the minds of people who share the same belief. That idea might be to build a small Catholic high school in between 43rd and 44th on Utica Street. After twelve years, Arrupe has now expanded even further. That expansion was made to give many other ideas the possibility to be heard.

As a Senior, we were all given the opportunity to go out into our community to volunteer at non-profit organizations that needed help. The Senior Service Project at Growing Home might have lasted two weeks, but to me it felt like two days. When I first went to meet my Supervisor, Erik Hicks, I noticed the crack on the walls, the dim lighting and the four operating rooms that belonged to Growing Home. These four rooms and 18 volunteers transform lives by trying to bring an end to homelessness, hunger, poor education and broken families. We never see unsheltered children, but they do exist. We never see a baby hungry, but they do exist. We hardly hear about activists and people who are trying to make a difference in their community, however we do exist. Our customers probably have nothing that can take them out of their current situation so that is why they come to us. We are all they have, but it should not be that way. Somewhere down the line, people mess up, but no one should have to endure severe suffering because of it. Growing Home has helped me discover the fire and passion that burns in me. It is a passion for justice and a fire that hopes to ignite the hearts of those around me. I know now that this fire will not burn out until my life has worn out; but until then I plan to live my life devoted to those who face injustices throughout the world.

We do not come here to lose sight of who we are. We are, rather, called to create a better version of ourselves. Once a week all of us go out into the world to prove what a teenager can do for a company that has initial faith in us at the start. But by the end of the year, they are sad to see us go. When it comes to community service opportunities, Mrs. Brin provides plenty of organizations in desperate need of our help. We sometimes ask ourselves when we can possibly find the time to be there when somebody needs our help. And I always say NOW. Now is the time to act against the injustices that our brothers and sisters across the globe face everyday. However, we are not there yet. We are here in a small bricked school that is surely expanding. This is where we leave our mark before we go out into the world to show what it means to be a man or woman for others.

# FINALIST

VALERIA GOMEZ

CLASS OF 2018

Sometimes people don't know exactly how much of an impact they leave in your life. Often times people appreciate the smallest deeds and the simplest gestures. I can surely say that in my siblings and my life, my mother has made the greatest impact on our lives. She is my inspiration. This story is about the small miracle workers in big offices, and a never-ending amount of patients: dedicated people with values of gold. All of this is God's will and with His guidance, because He is and is always going to be.

It was only around a year ago that my brother's appendix burst. From the ER Room he was immediately transferred to surgical operation. Afterwards, the surgeons came to speak to my mother and they were very surprised because they said that a case like his was unheard of. They said that his appendix had burst around five days before going to the hospital and it was a miracle he was alive, and withstood the pain. He had to go back into surgery to take out the liquid that had spilled into his body, and it was nerve-wrecking because there were possible complications with his breathing throughout the surgery.

Instantly, she decided to trust in God and believe in His plan. That night, my mom fell asleep at around 3am, which had come to be a regular bedtime since my brother's time at Denver Health. They say that you should pray hardest when it's hardest to pray because without God there is chaos. True. So in her pious life, my mom fell asleep praying; not her usual restless sleep but a very deep sleep. She dreamt she was in her car on a mountain made of crystallized ice. She reached the peak. She lifted her hands off the steering wheel and she started to go down, when in that moment a magnificent banner came down with an image she soon came to know was called Our Lord of Mercy. She woke up on 3 hours of sleep, but felt she had recovered from all the past nights of uneasiness. Needless to say, my brother's surgery went perfectly well with absolutely no complications, thank the Lord.

My brother had become quite popular because his was a miraculous case. Doctors came to visit him and apart from the fact that it was their job, we felt the warmth and good intentions for my family. They came with smile on their faces, with a heart full of good wishes for us. Doctors who were not taking care of him came and met him; particularly one who told my brother that he was getting to be very popular and so he wanted to meet him because he was who everybody was talking about because they said he was an angel. My brother, although he isn't one who expresses his feelings much at all, couldn't help but to smile a beautiful smile. My brother is someone who you don't really think is very noble, wise, or talented at first glance. Well that's a shame because if you take the time you will see in that first glance his vulnerability and the amazing person that he pretends not to be on the inside and how noble and caring and kind he really is. He may be a little defensive at first, but honestly in our society who isn't? It's a pretty pleasant privilege to know him, and even more to be able to call him my brother.

You can't say all heroes wear capes, but you may say there's a hero inside everyone who wears a smile. The small words of kindness and those short minutes of attention that weren't required



of the doctors, family, friends, and Fathers Drew, Tim, and Menard were the ones my family and brother surely remember most. In my life there have been so many inspirational people that I'm so blessed to call my family. Without my generous, loving, and stunning aunts, I truly don't know where I, or my family would be. They have helped us through so many difficulties in our lives and I don't know any simpler way to put it except that I'm blessed and may God save them a very special place in heaven. They are all very humble and beautiful people and I can only aspire to be similar to them in my future. They took the time out of their busy lives to spend time with my brother and carried joy in their steps.

Your family are the people that should be there with you in your times of happiness, but also be prepared with you when you need them most. There is a such thing as a biological family, but there are also people that God sends you that are happy to help you along the way who we consider family as well. I am indescribably thankful for the people who all came to stay with my brother because they kept his spirits up; truly, they made his day shine a little brighter from all gloom that surrounded his mind. These are the small things we all cherish more than we're supposed to, these small insignificant words of motivation keep us afloat when the easier thing is to drown in the deep waves. God was the most important and necessary piece in my story because this is all His plan and it's all His will that the doctors worked flawlessly to have everything go okay with my brother and God is the one who worked the miracles that made every little thing go smoothly.

This experience has taught me that the gift of life is beautiful, exhilarating, but most of all, it's priceless. God gives us this gift and we need to accept the good and the bad in life because it's in the hard times when we want to give up and when we want to fall down and not get up when we learn the meaning of life. It's in these times that we appreciate that although life may not be perfect it is still worth it and we still deserve to spend it with the people we love. In reality, there are no bad things; in the events we consider bad we grow, learn, and flourish as a person.

My mother taught me to always value all the blessings and people that God puts across our path, the love and care and effort that leave an eternal imprint on our lives. A drastic event wasn't necessary for me to know or realize that God acts through others to know us, but it did make things much more clear in showing people's values, compassion, and maybe even love towards other people in need. And this is only one more experience that gives me the faith and conviction with all forms of certainty that God exists and shall reign forever.

And I also believe in angels.

Dedicated and inspired by: Daniel Gomez

# FINALIST

DEMARCO RANDALL

CLASS OF 2017

During my Freshmen year at Arrupe I really did not know what it meant to be men and women for others. I thought it was just to help others. I never thought of being a man and women as something so serious. I had an experience when I was a man for others. A Junior was carrying all of his books and his backpack was about half way open. His school materials fell out of his backpack and no one helped him. I put myself in his spot. I wondered how would I want to be treated. Would I want someone to help me pick up my books? How would I feel if people around me were laughing? I decided to help him pick up his materials. This made me realize that it is more than just helping out others but acting on it. Doing things for others can make their whole day. Even if you just smile at them their day could be made.

My current understanding of being a Man and Woman for others is to not just talk about making a change but to act on it. What that means is if you see something bad happening and you talk about by saying that it is bad. What I do now is act on it. I will tell that person something. I remember one time a friend of mine was being picked on because he was smart, had glasses, and had a heavy Mexican accent. At first I was laughing about it. My friend looked at me with disappointment in his eyes. I felt bad for him. I knew in my mind that what I was doing was wrong and is not something that Jesus would want me to do. From that day on I made a promise to myself: if I was to ever be put in a situation like that I would stand up for them. That also makes me think that being a Man and Women for others means to be a voice for others. If that was me being made fun of I would want somebody to stand up for me. If no one will stand up for anybody then there is no being a Man and Woman for others. I think that if we are going to change people then we must change our self.

I have grown to be a better person for others. I help people with little things to big things such as taking out the trash without being asked. A “big” thing is mowing the lawn for my grandpa. I think that is what being a Man and Woman for others means: making yourself better and the others around you. I am grateful to be given the opportunity to come to Arrupe and learn how to benefit others and benefit myself. This has made me think it’s not enough to help others when they are looking, but to do little things when others are not looking. Also, to do things not to make you look good but because you want to make others better in the world. This is a quote that has stuck with me and has in a way made me live my life: “The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.” — Steve Jobs.



# FINALIST

ELIJAH CHAVEZ

CLASS OF 2018

Time to time we all experience or witness an act of kindness, some shown with great compassion and love. We often never realize the importance of these small but significant gestures, and without any regard, we seem to ignore the message or sign God is trying to show us. We never seek to find the value of these events that occur within our lives every day. Personally, these occurrences have an extreme effect on me. From opening the door for anyone passing through, to feeding the homeless, I can already tell you how witnessing many of these caring gestures have inspired me to share God's love with the world.

Have you ever been inspired to do something to help others? Typically, I would not do any gesture or act beyond my comfort zone, but there was a certain feeling inside I felt during a particular moment that I could not ignore or let pass. There was this courage I felt within myself to do something to help someone in need. The "No Fear" mentality struck me. Everyday at my job for CSWP, I walk downtown and see numerous faces of hurt, hungry, and homeless men and women. There was one day where I felt a strong desire to provide for a man who was desperately in need. This small action, I never knew, would give me a change of heart that I have never experienced before.

Walking into a grocery store with just enough money to spare for someone else, I decided to purchase a sandwich with two drinks for a hopeless old man outside the doors in need for food. I thought to myself during this time, "Well, maybe I should buy him something to eat. He's just hungry and I'll only be helping him out, no big deal." What I never realized was how he would impact my life more than I could do his. Walking up to this man and looking into his eyes, I could see and feel the pain he has witnessed in his life. As I offered the sandwich and drinks to the weary old man, there was a sudden sadness I felt. Tears were falling down the man's face, but he appeared to have the biggest smile on his face as well. That heart warming smile that stood before me would be forever imprinted in my mind. Seeing his smile and how hurt he must have been reminded me to be grateful and that God created us equal, although our own ignorance denies that claim. Realistically, what was so different between us two? Standing there for a couple brief moments, I asked the man how he was doing. The man, who had looked very damaged, told me how difficult it was to live in his conditions and how he used to give back, the way I did to him. He told me to never quit even when life knocks you down, to always get back up. These words have never left my mind since then and I have learned to show more gratitude for what I have. I've learned to humble myself in the presence of God after that colloquy. As I left, the man stopped me and said, "I know I gave up on life, but you kid, can make it somewhere. Just believe in it. God Bless you child," and he let me walk along.

Since coming to Arrupe Jesuit High School, I have experienced a great amount of God's love and presence in my life. Coming to school everyday, I witness small acts of kindness that always bring joy to others' lives. The event with the old man is just one of many life changing experiences I have witnessed attending Arrupe, with many more to come. I continue to seek my true purpose in life, and at Arrupe I know my path is being led in the right direction with all the

opportunities I receive every day. I continue to build up courage everyday and try to pass out my love to everyone as God wants me to. To be a man for others means to take a leap into something to knowing it will help others, and this is what I plan to do. I plan to set the world on fire with the help of God's grace.

## FINALIST

ANGELA STROHMEIER

CLASS OF 2017

As an incoming Freshman at Arrupe Jesuit High School I was familiar and had heard the phrase "man and woman for others," but never had taken time to understand the deeper meaning or taken the opportunity to see examples of people living in this manner. My first thought of what being a man and woman for others, was having huge commitment or a life devoted to being selfless and helping others. I believed this because I saw other students spending almost all of their free time doing community service and being considered a man and woman for others, a goal that I believed I could not accomplish with a busy schedule, and a busy family. I saw these students as an example of what being a man and woman for others was and to be one your life has to be completely committed to helping those in need in order to be considered as selfless and living your life out for the good of others. With this idea in my head, I felt it was unnecessary for me at that time to try to live out my life for others; I continued living for myself and only looking for the good of myself and future.

My ideas of what it means to be a man and woman for others has changed and developed throughout my time here at Arrupe. I now see being a man and woman for others as the person that you are and your morals, not necessarily how much literal charity work you do and how often. Of course I still believe that charity work is a part of being a man and woman for others but it is not just this. What I mean by this is, yes, we may do charity work, but who are we when we come home? I believe that who you are makes if you are a man or woman for others. If you have good intentions and are always looking for the good of others you are a man and woman for others. How you think and how you handle certain situations can decide this. Another quality of a man and woman for others is they do not expect any return, reward, or praise for the things that they do. They are doing it purely for the good of others and truly want their work to be a help to those in need. I now know that anybody can be a man and woman for others, regardless of race, age, health, or religion. We do not have to do the unthinkable things like starting organizations, or charities, in order to be a man and woman for others. All we must do is change our priorities and put others before ourselves throughout our everyday lives and make it a part of who we are.

Throughout my time here at Arrupe Jesuit I have grown and will continue to develop as a woman for others. My understanding has deepened and strengthened in what it means to be a man and woman for others. Through my teachers and my fellow classmates at Arrupe Jesuit, I



*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)