

Diocesan Speech Contest 2016 – Ava Deaner Our Lady of the Assumption School

A while ago I was at a master class for Young Professionals Theater Conservatory. There was some time left, so I decided to go up and sing in front of all of the students and teachers in the Conservatory. At first, as I was waiting I was not very nervous, but when I got on stage my nervousness hit me like a fireball. I felt like I was going to fall over, but I calmed myself. I went over to the piano and gave the pianist my music and my tempo. I got prepared for my song and began singing. Once the song was over, everybody clapped for me which made me feel better. Once everything was done, I realized that I didn't have to be afraid because I was affirmed by my friends. They laced up their boots by supporting me and helping me. I want to do the same just like my friends in theater did.

Let God be with you by lacing up your shoes or even your boots by being a good Catholic. We can all lace up our shoes. We can donate food to a food locker or smile at someone. A smile can make someone's day. Maybe that person you smiled at is being bullied, but you still managed to make that person happy.

You can also go out and live the word of God. To paraphrase Pope Francis, God didn't make us to just sit on our couches and watch television or play on our phones. No! He made us so that we can go out and fulfill his words because we should all be good Catholics. I fulfill his words by singing at mass, doing community service, and singing and playing piano for senior citizens at retirement homes.

I am a cantor at mass, so when I sing I am usually doing the psalm or the alleluia. Unlike the situation in the beginning, I am not usually nervous when I sing at church. I sometimes find it relaxing. Miss Cindy, the pianist, makes it very easy for me because if I mess up, she will just follow along with me. In my church environment, I am not the only one lacing up boots.

When I sing and play piano for senior citizens at retirement homes who are maybe lonely and sad, I hope that my actions can make people happy, and if I can make a person feel happy, I feel happy. I hope my music brings people closer to God because music is my song of faith.

You can fulfill your promise to God by lacing up your boots, and that promise is to be you, be true, and make someone smile. I lace up my boots by singing at mass, doing community service, and singing and playing piano for senior citizens at retirement homes. Think about what you can do to lace up your boots.

~Ava Deaner, Our Lady of the Assumption School