



How I Practice Catholic Values Outside of School and Church

By Peter Hart

Writing this paper is a little difficult because my whole life is mostly at school and at church. But when I stop to think about my Catholic values one thing comes to my mind quickly and that is to not judge others, an important part of someone who has faith.

My Catholic religion shows me that Jesus always treated others with love and no matter what they had done, he would love them and not judge them. All through the Bible I have seen examples showing Jesus loving others first and not judging them even if they had been far away from God in their life. Jesus' job was to bring people closer to God and he would not have been able to do that if he was always judging.

In my school, we have Options program for intellectually disabled students. I am used to being around these kids all day and they are a part of my life. So when I am outside of school at the grocery store, at the movies or at the mall, if I see someone who is intellectually disabled or looks different than most other people, I do not think negatively about them. They are as much of a human being as I am and they deserve to have just as much of a normal life as I do. Who am I to judge others because they are challenged in different ways than I am? We are all challenged in different ways and it is not my job to judge them. It is my job to help them and be a friend to them. That is how you bring people closer to God.

I went to public school for fourth through eighth grade and met many people from different backgrounds and religions. Not everyone believed what I believed. I did not judge them because they were different from me but we lived in the same neighborhood, rode the same school bus and played on sports teams. So I was just me and if I was judgmental, I would not have been a good example of Jesus to them.

I am an ice hockey player and there are many kids on my team and we all have different strengths. Some of us shoot the puck better, some skate better, and some hit better. I do not look at what they cannot do because that would be judging them. I look at what each of us can do that makes our team stronger. Jesus' team, the Apostles, was made of men with different abilities and he accepted them with their strengths and their weaknesses and did not judge them.

My mom told me that when I was in third grade and the sniper had shot five people in one day, I told her that "five more people get to see Jesus today". She said I did not say anything bad about the sniper but I only said good things about people meeting Jesus. I guess even when I was younger, I knew that judging people was wrong.