

Tsatsos Scholarship essay

June 2022

### Kindness

Growing up in a catholic household and being raised with good morals has brought me a long way. There have been many times I have gone out of my way to be kind to people, but there is one instance I would like to focus on. I never realized how much of an advantage and privilege it was for me to grow up in a faith filled home and go to private school my whole life. There were many people I met along the way that did not have the same beliefs as me growing up. Most of my neighbors went to public school while I was growing up, they often saw me coming home from school in my uniform and were curious as to why I was wearing it. One of my neighbors by the name of Chase was a couple of years younger than me and lived at the corner where the bus dropped me off. I often played outside with him and hung out with him when I was younger, around 3rd or 4th grade I would say. One day the bus dropped me off and he was outside playing basketball. I started shooting around with him in my uniform after school. He asked me why I wore my uniform to school. I explained to him that I went to a private school and they taught us about God in religion class. He seemed interested, so I asked him if he wanted to see what I was learning in school everyday. I took him into my house and went into my dad's office where he keeps a bible. We then went outside and I proceeded to read scripture to him out of the bible. I tried, to the best of my elementary school self's ability to teach him everything I knew. I can vividly recall reading to him the story of Noah's ark as it was my favorite story in the bible at the time. Little did I know at the time I was showing bravery and kindness to my neighbor by sharing the scripture with him and trying to teach him everything I knew. I credit this ability to show that act of kindness to my teachers and staff at St. Lawrence, that taught me

to go out and spread the word of God. Hopefully those moments on the bench in my front yard stuck with him and he eventually went on to do the same himself. Chase then moved away a year or two later, I have not spoken to him since. As much as I credit everyone else, I also credit the holy spirit for giving me the courage and knowledge to be able to teach someone all I knew about the religion. I am still strong in my faith today and ask God for bravery and courage everyday. I often wonder who non religious people turn to in times of struggle to give them the courage to overcome adversity. I will continue to carry my morals and beliefs that were taught to me my whole life into wherever this journey takes me in life.

My concluding thoughts as I finish this essay go to the Tsatsos family and especially Darryl and Ryan. I did not know Darryl or Ryan personally, but know they lived a life of faith as does their whole family. My mom still has their prayer card on our refrigerator and I read "Together Forever" everyday. I know their life journey was short, but what I have seen and heard about them and the whole Tsatsos family is a testament to kindness, courage and selflessness. I am inspired by this example and will continue to keep them in my prayers!