

To be honest, I did not know what I would get myself into when I enrolled in a Jesuit university. I didn't even know who the Jesuits were. All I knew coming into the school was that they really valued service and action. I got more clarity as soon as I enrolled in a Christian Ethics course, taught by a Catholic Judge, my first semester here. We talked a lot about what it means to live like the Jesuits and their mission. We talked a lot about how to be a whole, aligned person. It really lit a fire in me to use whatever skills and talents I have to serve the world around me. It made me face some career choices: choices I had tried to run away from. It also made me face what had become somewhat of a spiritual crisis in my life. That class was really the base of my time here at LMU. I took what I learned in that class and applied it to all areas of my life - in and out of the classroom.

I thank the universe that I stumbled into a Jesuit education. It helped me shape my worldview for the better and made me want to become the best version of myself. As far as the readings for this week goes, I gathered that the Jesuits live a life very much how I pictured Jesus lived his. He would not hesitate to hang out with the marginalized populations and help them out. He would use his talents to serve. And he led by example. To me, having a Jesuit, liberal arts education is well worth the time and money. It not only builds intelligence, but character.

A Jesuit education, or lifestyle even, helps me understand what it means to not just follow the way of God silently, but actively. It helps me understand what it means to be a spiritually healthy person. It makes me live a life with more integrity, honesty, and service. I think I have shifted my values for the better since coming to LMU because I have never wanted to volunteer more than I do today. I think the Jesuit way of going about things can be implemented in the Writing Department as well. I think the main thing is using your talents and skills for the betterment of others around you. Making an impact. Isn't that what we are all trying to do in life? We can use writing to make an impact, to say important and timely things about the world. To highlight marginalized or underrepresented populations and give them a voice in media.

I especially loved watching the Ted Talk with Father Greg. The demographic he works with has always interested me as I know nothing about that world. I think it is a noble thing to take former gang members who want to turn their lives around and help them do just that. I believe all people have the potential to live a good life, as long as there is a support system available to them.