

SOPHIE MEINHARDT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

BY ALEX REID

When I think about what I will leave for the next generation, I must take time to reflect on what I have learned from my generation and the generation before me. My parents, grandparents, family and God are a big part of what I have learned and what I will try to pass on to the next generation. I have always looked to God, my parents, grandparents and family for guidance in decisions that I have had to make. Of course this guidance has been there since I was born, and the decisions that I have had to make have grown in importance throughout my life.

My parents have always been there to offer support with my school work when I did not understand something. They did not give me the answer to make it easier for me, but they worked with me to help me find the answer. This helped me to become a better student. My parents are there when I get hurt, physically and emotionally. They wiped my knee when I fell off my bike for the first time and they gave me a hug when I dropped the ball and lost the game. My parents are there to teach me right from wrong. When I have made the wrong choice and got myself into some trouble they were there to support me and make sure that I learned from my mistakes. Learning from mistakes, whether in school on a test, on the court or field in a game, or when I made a wrong choice and found myself in trouble has always been important to my parents and now to me. I understand that life is a “classroom” where I will learn new things every day. I respect my parents for all that they have done for me and I hope that some day I too will be able to pass on what I have received from them to the next generation.

My grandparents have always been close to me. They have been there just as my parents have, showing me love, support and respect. It is very clear where my parents have learned so much when I look at my grandparents. When I was younger my grandma and grandpa took me to Church with them. They taught me about Jesus, how to pray and what Mass was about. They were there when I received Jesus in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. They were so happy for me that day. Today I still like to go to Mass with them when I get the chance. They have taught me one of the most important things in life and that is to be like Jesus and to teach others how to be like Jesus.

Family is another part of my life that has given me so much to pass on to others. My family is very close and I have learned that they are part of me. I enjoy spending holidays with my aunts, uncles and cousins. We have family traditions that are very important to my grandparents. They want to see these traditions continue and be passed on to the next generations. One of the biggest family traditions that is important to me is Thanksgiving. We celebrate with my grandma’s family. It is a big celebration with many extended cousins that we do not see often. Our family celebrates having each other

on this day. We celebrate the traditions that my great grandparents started many years ago. Everyone brings something to share. We thank God for bringing everyone together and for all of the wonderful food that we have. This is something that is important and I hope to be able to share it with the next generation. Another family tradition that I have been part of since I was a baby is going on vacation with my grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. We enjoy being together. We are always thankful that we have this time together in our busy lives. I will pass on the importance of traditions to the next generation. The importance of family and Jesus in my life will be something that I never forget and always value.

I have the chance to pass on to my sisters and brother all of the things that I have learned from my parents, grandparents and family. Since I am the oldest, I have the opportunity to be a good role model to them. I can help them to learn some of the things that I have already learned. I will show them love, respect, and support. I will teach them the importance of Jesus. I will teach them the importance of family and their traditions. Not only will I do this with my siblings, but with others. Some day, I will share what I have learned with my own family, the next generation.

I will use the gifts that I have been given from my parents, grandparents, family and God to live my life with the Glory and Praise of Jesus. I will remember in my actions that I should be like Jesus. Even when it does not feel comfortable, I must try to live my life as I believe. I am a follower of Jesus and will let it shine through my actions. I will try to make a difference in the lives that I touch. I will reach out to those that need help and care for those that are hurting. I will be a friend to the person that seems like they need one. I will try each and every day to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

I have been given many things to pass onto the next generation. I have been given love, support, encouragement and respect that will continue to grow in me as I move on in life. Through my actions I can set an example for others to follow. That is the legacy I hope to leave to others.