

Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2017

Olivia Stumin
Our Lady of Visitation

Grace Under Fire

"Each one of you has been given a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these varied graces of God, put it at the service of others." Grace is a gift that you receive personally from God. Grace has taken on a new meaning for me over the past four years. It is through God's grace that I have learned to take the good with the bad, and help others do the same. I am the oldest of four sisters. It all started when my mom had to go away for a month because of her sickness. My sisters and I greatly missed her in our house, but I found the grace and courage to help them to see the good coming out of her going away and getting better. Although it was hard and scary for us at the time, we all pulled together and became stronger because of it.

About a year after this happened, my parents decided to get a divorce. This was devastating for all of us. What was once normal to us wasn't there anymore. We were scared, sad, and didn't know what the future held for us. But by the grace of God I took my leadership skills into hand and helped my sisters get through this tragic time. Through us having to move half of our once organized belongings and toys to a different house and selling our old, amazing, and beloved one, I helped my sisters see the bright side of things, and that good things would come from this. Some good things came from it, and some bad things did too, but we all kept our heads up and our spirits high.

Grace has taken on a new meaning for me over the past few years- My mom is now healthy, and my parents no longer fight. My mom lives in a nice house and my dad lives in a nice condo, looking for a new house. My sisters and I have realized that we still have two parents that love us, even if they don't live in the same house. We all got through the hard times of family members going away and having your two parents who once lived together in peace move apart. I used the grace of God and my leadership skills to help my sisters get through these hard times.

Ernest Hemingway once said, "Courage is grace under pressure. I am thankful for the grace God has granted me to find the courage to keep going through our own personal 'fires.'" Grace gave me the courage to fight through my own sadness and fears and to comfort my younger sisters. Grace from God is the reason why my family and I are as happy as we are today, and it will be for the rest of our lives.