

A Teacher's Prayer

Written by Olivia Laborde

I love my job. I say those words often.

In my time here at Teurlings, I have learned so much about my faith through books and classes, and I have strived to share what I have learned with my students. But, what I'm sure they don't realize, is that while they've learned from me, I've also learned so much from them. They have taught me about compassion, hard work, friendship, and most of all, how to encounter God on this campus.

Four years ago, this senior class walked into my classroom as loud, silly, unruly freshmen. I loved every minute of teaching them, and I've loved every minute of watching them grow from those freshmen into the leaders they are today. The junior and sophomore classes followed, equally as loud, silly, and unruly, and I have been able to sit here and watch them grow, and I have seen many of them encounter the Lord in a new way. Now, my new freshmen, the biggest class we've ever had, the most freshmen I've ever taught, are here, keeping things just as lively as those who have come before them, and over and over again I have the privilege of watching them as they come to know the Lord more and more deeply.

So many moments with God have happened between their first steps in my classroom and the steps they are taking on our campus now.

Praying with them in first Friday adoration.

Leading them in meditations on Scripture.

Speaking to and with them at retreats.

Watching them kneel before the Eucharist.

Seeing them surrender to God.

These are just some of the glimpses I get each day on this campus.

My prayer every day is for the Lord to help me to live out the vocation He has given me, and to give me the grace to do so, which includes my role as a Teurlings Catholic High School teacher. Following those words, I always continue with a prayer that our students might come to know Christ as I have come to know Him; I pray that they continue to know Him from the moment they walk on this campus, until they step off of it, every moment in between, and every moment after.