



Naomi G. Florida

I am Naomi G. Florida, 17 years of age and was born on August 13, 2007 in Pinaskohan, Maasin City, Southern Leyte. I was born in a family of four, I only have my parents and my little brother. My parents are Alma G. Florida-a housewife and Reymund A. Florida who is working in a water refilling station. We are happily living in our humble but loving home. Though poor in nature, my parents are really working hard to provide for the family. At a young age, I am already aware of our situation and especially because I really am aware of the condition of my brother. My brother is a very lively boy of 10 and in his personality you would never know and expect that he is suffering. My brother actually has the what we called “Double cliff palette”, in our local language it’s called “bunggi”. He needed two operations for him to be seen just like normal people, the internal and external. I really admire people who actually are willing to help other people who are not expecting something in return. When my brother was about 4 or 5 I guess, the first operation was made possible because of an unknown donor who paid our bills for my brother’s sake. At that time, all I can think of is that later on I would return the favor, it may not be to the donor himself but at least I could help other people in his inspiration. It was also the reason why I did take the exam the Sisters of Mary offered me, because I promised to myself to help my family especially my brother because, I have not mentioned, but I was the one who felt the way he suffered for feeling that he’s different from others and sometimes he was bullied. It makes me feel guilty for not being able to stand on his behalf, the time when he needed his sister most. I was hoping to have a bright future back then with my brother, a world where he will feel comfortable in any way.

My elementary life was indeed memorable because I got to develop and engage myself to a lot of competitions that really helped shape the way I handle

myself up. I was chosen competitor of Math and Science Quizzes, and even to journalisms like Feature and News Writing. Not to boast but because of us, we're three students who they call legendary in our school, who are really excelling in academics that other schools are already even afraid of competing with us every time. They actually say things like they were just there so as for their school to have representative and they don't actually intend to champion competitions because of us. I was a consistent with honor student and an honor role. I even graduate as a salutatorian in elementary. During this short span of time, I was able to master the habit of studying and thus growing up with it.

After graduating in Elementary at Pinascohan, Maasin City, Southern Leyte, Sisters of Mary School entered my life. Actually it was a bit late because they recruited us on the spot. I was just hoping I could actually enter but not really assuming because I just entrusted it to God, whatever He leads me to. That day, I took the exam, I wasn't expecting that that would mark my last day with my family before departing to study at Cebu. So I took the exam and passed all requirements except for one and that is they'll not welcome 11 years old for the reason that we are still young and it would be difficult for us to find an on-the-job training in the future. I felt disappointed for I just realized that I would loss the opportunity to get closer to achieving my dreams but again God is very good. He made it possible through the parish priest who really pushed that we should be included because we already passed all examinations and it's also a waste if not. And so, my journey in the Sisters of Mary started. It was the place that not only developed my intellectual capacity but spiritual and physical as well in balance. I have learned a lot of good morals and the thought of aiming far beyond I imagined I would be came over. I was able to master school works from house chores and even time management. Though it may seem to be prone to misunderstanding because we're diverse, I did not feel that way, I felt belonged. It molds me into making my mind more vast and even changed the way I perceive negative things and turn it into positive ones. I was encouraged to study harder and that is why I was able to top our batch on Grade 11 and was a With High Honor. I was a proud Math and Science Club officer and have joined competitions inside or outside like Math quizzes and competitions. It was challenging, of course, but the fact that though it was but still I was able to make it made me believe and have trust to myself that I actually can do anything if I just make it happen.

Now, I am already having my on-the-job training at Meraki-Tech Precision Corporation located at Mountview, Bancal, Carmona. I am almost ending my high school journey on March or April. I am thankful because I was granted by the opportunity to be part of the scholarship because I believe that it is already the stepping stone to reach something I ever dreamt of. I am really looking forward to graduate in college and be a Certified Public Accountant with the inspiration of computers in these modern times. I believe it will very much help me and I hope to return the favor to others in return. I would be graduating, making money, help my family, help my community and will be helping other people in the near future me. "Helping other people would create the domino effect of kindness."