

2023
Grade 6

When I Felt Close to God

One morning after the hard freeze in January, my coach told my athletics class to run a mile on the track. I am not the most athletic kid, but I try my best. That morning I remember thinking, "I really don't want to run a mile. I can't!" Then I remembered my family prayer. We say it every morning and part of it says, "Lord, please protect us from evil, harm and illness, and help us love as you do." Then all of a sudden I felt strong and I wasn't sad about the cold or the mile. I just started running and not only did I finish, but I finished in 7:51. My strength came from God. I felt him with me! It amazes me with all the problems in our world He helps me with my small problems.

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Gift

About one year ago, the Bethlehem wood carvers came to my parish to sell the holy wood carvings that they had made. After Mass one day, I went to the narthex to buy a wood carving. At that time, the priests at our parish had only been there for a year, and I thought that they were inspirational and had motivated me to grow closer to God. Out of gratitude, I decided to buy a Crucifix for them. As I was checking out the woodwork, I found a beautiful Crucifix covered in shiny tiles, so I bought it for them. I wrapped up the Crucifix with a note to the priests, and I held on to it and brought it to the Christmas Eve Mass. After the Christmas Eve Mass was over, I gave the gift to Father H. A couple of days later, I received a call from Father H. He told me that he went to the hospital to visit a man who was sick. Father H. was not able to go into the room, hence preventing him from giving the man the Anointing of the Sick. So instead, Father H. gave the man the Crucifix I had given to him. The man felt peace when he received the Crucifix. The man later recovered from his illness. A week or so later Father H. shared with me a letter that the man had written to him. In it he mentioned that when he received the Crucifix, he felt a peace that he had not felt since the ordeal began and that he felt its power and peace like a warm blanket on a cold day. With the note, there was also a blessed rosary from the man. The rosary means a lot to me and is still hanging on the wall in my room. This was an amazing and true story about when I knew that God had worked through me in an unexpected way to bring peace to a man who was suffering. It was an honor and a gift to be part of it.