

Alejandra Gonzales

12th Grade

Holy Cross of San Antonio

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“Hey, it’s me.”

“I knew you would come back to me?”

“I feel empty without you.”

“Then why did you walk away again?”

Charlie did not answer this question. He looked at the face in front of him, barely making eye contact. He could not figure out the reason he left, or at least a logical one.

The truth is Charlie was ashamed and felt unworthy, so he hid by running away.

“I know what you are thinking? You can say it; I will not be mad.”

“I guess... I guess I left because I did not know that you would forgive me or love me after all that I did.”

“My child, why do you doubt me? Have I not been there every time you were weak and weary? Put all of your faith and energy in Me. Trust in Me. Carry all of your hope in Me.

Am I not your Heavenly Father, what is there that I cannot give to you?”

We know now that the other voice belongs to God, but Charlie is more than a single person. Charlie represents each and every one of us who sways from our faith in God. It is hard to put your trust in something you cannot see, touch, or hear, so we tend to go between spurts of faith and doubt. We know that God’s love is unconditional and His forgiveness is unending. Yet, when we sin against God we begin to believe that God is

disappointed in us. As I was reading last night I came to the understanding that God's love is without any conditions. He does not love us more when we are good or less when we sin. His love and His being is constant and endless. He loves us the same amount whether we sin or not. God truly sees each and every one of us as true master pieces.

The youth of today has lost fear of the Lord. I was raised a Catholic, who loves and knows the Catholic faith. I have an uncle who is a priest in Korea, an aunt who is a Sister of Charity in El Salvador, and a grandfather who lived a life filled with faith. This made me the person to ask about God. The most common question I was asked by my peer was, "Why does God love us if we sin?" I used to answer with something along the lines of, "His love comes unconditionally." It was short because I never really understood why God's love was unconditional. I now understand that it is because He is beyond limits and it is through knowing and accepting that we cannot comprehend all of God's magnanimity that it brings a true sense of clarity. God is so great that only He can truly love each of us constantly and without falter, even when we offend Him. We do not understand the vastness of God's greatness and power, leading to the conflict of not knowing God's own love for us. If the youth and even adults who strayed were to understand that God is never disappointed in us and that is part of His greatness then they would turn back to the Church - to God - without any shame, but an immense love for God.