



Daniela Corsetti: Student Witness to Faith

My name is Daniela Corsetti and I am studying Chemical Engineering and Society at McMaster University. I graduated from Loretto Abbey Catholic Secondary School in 2010.

To be a witness means to encourage faith. If I were to create a Catholic resume, it would not be much different from my normal resume, except for also recognizing less tangible aspects of my life.

What kind of difference do you hope to make in living a life based on Jesus' teachings?

In high school, I was involved in a few different roles. For three years, I was a part of the Leadership Team that went to Camp Olympia for one weekend each year. I started as a member, became assistant leader and then was the leader of the team in my final year. Through my involvement with the Leadership Team, I gained the confidence to be an effective Catholic leader, enabling me to help other members on the team do the same for years to come.

I was also on Student Council for grade eleven and twelve as Sports Representative and President respectively. Student Council positions require a large time commitment to effectively represent the entire student body. Its purpose is to create an environment that is welcoming and encourages faith for all students, from when the grade nines go on the orientation trip to giving graduating students a final year to remember.

In grade eleven, I went on a service-leadership trip to India with other students and educators from across the board. I was a witness to the great work Catholics are doing throughout the world, and I saw the wide-spread work of the Loretto Sisters. It was an experience that made me realize that no matter what I do, I need to keep others in mind and work to make a difference.

My experience in India made me eager to travel and this summer, I worked in Ghana for three months with Engineers Without Borders. This experience showed me the strength and courage in others and was a renewal of seeing faith around me every day. I learned how complex development is, and that having significant impact is difficult and takes time. One of the biggest lessons I learned is that no matter where people come from, what they look like, what language

they speak, we are all the same. We all want and need the same things. This was very encouraging to me and renewed my sense of global community.

In university, I continue to get involved. I believe that persevering is an important part of being a witness. I definitely had many challenging times, but it is important to not let it get to you. Remember why you do what you do, and cherish all the positive, inspiring moments. I was a first year representative on the McMaster Engineering Society last year, I am very involved with the Engineers Without Borders McMaster chapter, I play intramural sports and am Vice-President Finance on the Women in Engineering Society. I was a Welcome Week Orientation Leader this fall and I volunteer for events such as a Go Eng Girl. All of these things benefit the McMaster and Engineering communities that I am a part of, by not only encouraging others to find their niche, but also making opportunities for it to happen.

I mentioned earlier that I wanted to make a difference. I think it is important to define what that means and how I want to do that. It starts by having something fuelling you in all your actions. Whatever you do, have a reason to do it. That can be as simple as you enjoy it, or something like you are dedicated to doing it to help out a friend. By having a reason, you are encouraging faith in those around you and yourself. I would like to make a difference by applying the technical skills of my engineering degree, combined with the soft skills of my experiences and elective courses to have a positive impact on the world. This can range anywhere from working for an engineering firm that is focused on social and environmental sustainability to being a teacher and encouraging young people. However, before I get to that part of my life, I believe small actions like smiling at people as they pass by you are ways of making a difference every day.

What advice do you have for a young Catholic finding ways to express their faith?

The beauty of faith is that it can be expressed in so many different ways! Some people express faith through volunteering, some people through being kind to others and some by doing that thing they are passionate about! Every action, whether big or small, can be an expression of faith. Let it guide you, and be open to seeing it in yourself and others. Be a WITNESS.