

St. Thomas More Essay Competition

by Carlos F.

We are all different. We all come from different backgrounds, go through different struggles, experience different things, and yet, it is still possible to find unity in our diversity. These past few years, the United States has gone through a chaotic period of time. From the shooting at Marjory Douglas in February, to the separation of families at the border, and now with the raging wildfires in California, it seems as if it will be impossible for us to reach the end of this mess. At times like this, one can wonder how the United States will reunite and stand together against the waves of hatred and violence that keep coming towards us. However, like Saint Thomas More said in his book *Utopia*, “Kindness and good nature unite men more effectually and with greater strength than any [other] agreements whatsoever.” Although this novel was written in 1516, the same principles of More’s writing can be applied to the age that we live in now. Simply put More is saying that our actions and merit speak much louder than our words.

Nearly half of the world’s population lives on less than \$2.50 a day. To try to prevent this issue, Christ the King does many small things to help those in need, especially during the holiday season. We make Thanksgiving food baskets in November, host a gift drive for St. Boniface in December, and host homeless families in our gym in January. These opportunities to aid to the less fortunate unite our school and help us to realize how lucky we are to be in the position that we are in. We are blessed with a place to stay when we are cold, an amazing education, families that love us, and food to eat when we are hungry. When we realize the infinite blessings that God has given us in our lives, it makes us want to help those who are not as lucky as we are. This can help us focus on giving kindness and love, rather than always receiving it, and give us a new perspective on life. Simple acts of friendship and kindness truly go a long way. Similarly, Saint

Thomas More gives us a simple way of looking at life. He wants all people do be united through their differences, and in doing so, we can form true bonds and connections with another's soul.

The point that Saint Thomas More was trying to get across with his quote was the genuine meaning of giving. A parallel story to this moral is presented in a book called *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein. This book is about a boy who was best friends with a tree. She would give all of her gifts to the boy. As an example, when the boy wanted to play on the vines of the tree, the tree would allow it. She let him use her branches to build a house and her trunk to make a boat. This endless love and sacrifice for the boy was apparent. The tree would always try to please the boy and give him all that she was able to. A book so simple can help us focus on what we need to do for our society and world. Our calling as people of God is to serve him and to love as Jesus loved. This form of love, sacrifice, and giving is something that Saint Thomas More wants us to strive for. We must always try to give of ourselves and have compassion for all different types of people.

Simple virtues such as compassion, love, and understanding can be taught when interpreting More's quote. He simply wants the world to be at peace by giving people the responsibility to walk in each other's shoes. Especially with the waves of chaos and turmoil that are occurring in our world today, it can sometimes be easy to lose sight of God. Saint Thomas More wants us to give endlessly, love with passion, and serve God at all costs in a world where violence, hatred, and chaos is occurring. Because Jesus did this, Saint Thomas More wants us to live as examples and continuations of him. Through More's words, he gives us the opportunity to love God through our kind actions and deeds.