

## Amelia Imada



When I first attended Pacific LIFE as a student back in 2014, I remember wanting to become a Marianist LIFE Adult (MYA) when I entered college and I was so blessed to be able to serve as one this past summer. At my first summer at LIFE I grew closer to God and made many friends who were unashamed to speak about their faith. The community we became during that week was welcoming and supportive. The retreat was filled with fun and memories that shaped who I am today. I came back as a MYA this past summer to Pacific LIFE because I wanted to foster the same climate for younger students and encourage them to grow in their faith.

Serving as a MYA was a heartwarming experience. I was able to help the coordinating team, moderators, and students in any way I could. Whether it was handing out pens or helping to lead a workshop called “Keeping it Lit,” explaining how to keep your faith once you go off to college, I felt like I was truly making a difference. I had a great time watching the students make friends and watching their souls catch on fire. Praying with everyone at the retreat was an overwhelmingly happy feeling. I felt that at this retreat I got to learn how to truly pray for

others unconditionally and want to continue to do so even after leaving the campsite.

Therefore, here is my hope and prayer for the 2019 LIFERS:

LIFERS, may you continue your journey and grow in your faith with an open mind and open heart. I hope the fire in you never grows dim, and if it does, I pray that your heart turns to God and your friends around you. Trust in God and share what you have learned with others as God wants you to. Continue to “run to God’s heart” and keep your “Soul on Fire!” Amen.