



“The Two Wings on Which the Human Spirit Rises”

As a survivor of the public-school system, I have the unique privilege of reflecting on my relatively new experiences in a Catholic school and contrasting it with those experiences past. So often in public school, my peers and I were presented with the idea that the only way to knowledge and wisdom was through reason. For the first nine years of my education, I read textbooks, questioned my teachers endlessly, and devoured any piece of information I could get my hands on. And yet, what I learned had very little impact on my life. I could explain osmosis to you without batting an eye, but my knowledge lacked overall context. In short, while my reasoning was sharp and ample, I was lacking one very important and complimentary tool: faith.

Faith always seemed to me the distant, obscure, and slightly irrational cousin of reason. She had answers, but lacked logic and so I disregarded her as silly and unimportant. It was not until several years later when I sat as an impatient sophomore in a cold theology class that I realized the inseparable nature of faith and reason. It dawned upon me that there could be no complete reason without faith, and certainly no complete faith without reason. The revelation was astounding to my young mind. Suddenly the Catholic Church was not just some old society tucked away and veiled by mystery, rather she was a living, breathing, fountain of truth – one who did not seek to selfishly hoard her wisdom but rather was on an active mission to bring it to the world.

For the first time, my knowledge seemed rounded, fulfilled, and applicable. What a secular education could not offer, a Catholic education had brought readily. I never would have been fully aware of the world around me, much less brought to the faith had it not been for my Catholic schooling. I can truly say that my Catholic education is a full education and one that will not desert me once I enter the world as an independent adult.