

C.Hickey

Newton Country Day School

Grade 6

Just as St. Madeleine Sophie and St. Philippine knew civil unrest and public health crises, we now find our world facing similar challenges. In which of their values do you find strength, hope and inspiration to be a change agent that will help heal the discord and division in our daily life? What are you doing to put your "Heart in Motion"?

We find ourselves going through a pandemic and circumstances that are hard to deal with every day. Looking up to St. Madeleine Sophie and St. Philippine helps us shine a brighter light on our world. St. Madeleine devoted her life to God and the Society of the Sacred Heart. Something I could use right now is her bravery. With this global pandemic, it seems like everything we have to do is harder. Wearing masks all the time, not being able to play with friends normally or even come together as a community for all our traditional events, make taking that step forward each day difficult. If Madeleine Sophie was here she would stand up and tell us not to give up. Madeleine Sophie's words are inspirational to me during this time: "The Spirit is always speaking to us deep in our hearts, if only we listen". At Newton Country Day School, we get to see Saint Madeleine Sophie on a stained glass window to look to and pray in our amazing chapel; she is a great role model for me and my classmates.

One of the St. Philippine's characteristics that inspires me is her compassion. She left behind a life of wealth to dedicate herself to charity work. Later she eventually joined Saint Madeleine Sophie to start the Sacred Heart Schools. In my school, we have a hallway dedicated to St. Philippine. It's called the Duchesne hall which has many pictures of her. I know she would help anyone who is in need and we are taught to follow her values at NCDS. She shows her

love for God and helping others in this quote “How truly blessed we shall be if at the price of even very great sacrifices we shall have made God known and loved by one more soul!”

The examples of Saint Madeleine Sophie and St. Philippine set my heart in motion to give back. I have been trying my best to give back to others and make lemonade out of lemons during this pandemic. For example, I have donated to food drives, donated clothes, cooked meals, and baked treats for my elderly neighbors. My sister and I have invited our neighbors to little picnics outside of our apartment building to share food and keep them company. I also have been spending time reading articles about how to help people in need. I pray for God to watch over these people, ask him to bless them, and for me to continue to find ways to give back. I am so grateful for all my gifts, my family, and my school community for encouraging me to be my best self, be grateful, and give back.