



Jessa L. Hernando

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.” Eleanor Roosevelt once stated, yet those words continue to linger in the mind of many dreamers who aspire to achieve their visions, and I am one of them.

I am Jessa L. Hernando, born on February 25, 2007 as the third child among the four of Mary Ann and Sozimo Hernando. My father is a farmer while my mother is a domestic helper. Until I entered in the Sisters of Mary School-Girlstown, the three of us are raised under our father’s care.

As a student I experienced walking for how many kilometers just to reach my elementary school, bringing with me rice without viand, and with 5 pesos allowance for the three of us to share. I usually have to skip classes to help my father earn money. I have to help him in the farm, sell vegetables and help my auntie.

My father reached grade six but was not able to finish it while my mother finished only her grade one education. Despite of the educational gap, my father did his best to support me and encourage me not to give up of my studies.

Although I grow up in a broken family, I still feel like I am made whole by my family’s moral support. Despite of financial problems, by God’s grace I am not disheartened in pursuing what I want to be and what I want to achieve.

The sad reality of family separation, poverty, and less opportunities that was introduced to me at a young age could not stop me, they only strengthen me.

Now that I have the privilege of acquiring Bona Via Foundation scholarship, I am reassured that my dreams are not just wishful thinking. I am supported. And another step was successfully taken. I know that with the help of this scholarship and the Sisters of Mary School, I will be successful with my every endeavors. Successful enough to help my family and -by God’s providence - other people, just like how I am being helped today.

I am eager and ready to embark in every journey I have to face, not forgetting the virtues that was taught to me. I will persevere, I will do my best, and I will not stop until I fulfilled every goal I have and make those people who believe in me proud.