

HAZEL NEBRAW ROSAS

My name is Hazel Nebraw Rosas, 17 years of age. I am from Brgy. Sta. Ines, Tanay, Rizal and I am currently studying at The Sisters of Mary of Banneux, Inc. The name of my father is Roel E. Rosas and my mother is Bernadette N. Rosas. My father's work is a carpenter, and my mother is a housewife. We are five children, and I am the third; my eldest brother is now in 2nd year college. The second is Grade 12, the 4th is Grade 8 and the youngest is in Day Care. We are all living together in a house made of wood near the river. We don't own farmland or lot because my parents have no heirloom. Though we are poor, we live a decent life, decent in a way that we are taught to respect other people, to be humble and most of all to be grateful in all things. When I was 7 years old, my father developed an illness in his knee bones and that caused him to stop working and just stay at home. He is the only one working for the family because my brothers are still minor age and cannot work. So, my mother decided to find a job, a babysitter. We, her children, are so jealous because we miss her so much, but she is far from us taking care of another's child. She worked for almost half a year; she bought some medicines for my father that made him recover. The money that she had earned was only spent on the payments of all our debts. That is one of the saddest moments in my life, but it has never weakened me. We, the children, continue to study, even sometimes we are experiencing humiliation because we don't have any allowance to buy some delicious viand at school. That experience made me realize something, that I need to strive to study because someday if I become successful no one will ever dare to humiliate me and my family. When I entered Grade 6, I started to know the Sisters of Mary through my advisory teacher because he is a graduate. He helped me with everything, especially the processing of my papers. It was very difficult when I entered the school because I was always thinking that I was too far from my family, I missed them already, I'm afraid, I don't know anyone, there are rules that need to be followed. But, as time went by, I have learned to adapt, I learned to become strong, to be independent and most of all I learned to develop a dream, a dream for the better future of my family and myself.

