

KHRIZZEL BAUCAS MABLAY

Khrizzel Baucas Mablay is my name. I am a 16-year-old girl who came all the way from Benguet. March 16, 2007, is my birthday, the day when Fr. Al died. I spent my childhood days in Bangao, Gurasan, Kabayan, Benguet. My parents, Maribel and Remando B. Mablay, were arranged marriage by their parents, that's what I know. However, as time goes by, fortunately, they learned how to love each other and my mother was able to bear 4 children, including me. Kharlyn is the name of their first child. She just entered college last year as first year. She has to go to the city in order to attend college and this means that she also has to be away from our parents with only 2 children around. Life became even harder, they needed to provide needs of their children as long as they can. My parents worked even harder, and I clearly saw it during my vacation.



I grew up with my grandmother. She's the one who's always looking after me when I was still a child since my parents are most of the time, out of work. My father is a farmer and though my mother entered college, she wasn't able to pass the board exam for teacher. I just learned of it when I had my vacation in 2021. She didn't tell me about it, I just found it on my own. I have always thought that she made it and I realized how painful it is for her since she's the breadwinner of their family during her time. She then told me to study very hard and to do way better than her, to make it through and be the one that we dream of. I understand how hard it is to admit it to her own child that she failed to do and I appreciate every effort they both make. All the sacrifices that they did and all the pain that they endured, made me more persistent, determined and inspired to achieve my dreams with flying colors.

Facing and surpassing the challenges that life gives me is one of the main factors that will certainly contribute to the success that I dream of. Staying in the Sisters of Mary taught me many things whether in academic lessons, skills and values, but in any aspect of life. I learned how to be independent, how to face and fight all the problems that come my way, how to be who you are and all of the things that you could possibly imagine. Yes, it is very hard at first, for at a young age you're already away from your family but you have to take risks, many sacrifices, and endure all the pain in order to achieve what you want in life.

Now, I am in senior high preparing for my brighter future. It all started when I became one of the lucky 30 students who will undergo a screening for the Anne-Marie Lampe Scholarship-Bonavia Foundation, a scholarship that will certainly change the future of anyone who will be selected. Looking at my companions, I asked myself “Will I be able to make it?” I knew that everybody will do their best for we all have a dream to achieve that is why I told myself once again “You can do it, just be who you are! Do your best and God will do the rest.” We had an exciting, amazing, and enjoyable activities during those days, such as team building activity, making a speech and the last was the interview. After going all through these, I entrusted everything to God. Every night I would always say, “I entrust everything, all my worries unto you O, Lord.” That is what I always pray every night even before the screening. It’s always been my prayer.

It was January 18, 2024, birthday of one of my closest friends who’s with me during the screening. We were called because we are told to perform for the friends that we just met. I was so happy and at the same time nervous because of the result. We’ll be having the giving of certificates to those 10 students who were selected. I was given the honor to give the garland to one of them and amazingly it is Ma’am Marie who had lunch with us last Tuesday and who is also one of the interviewers who interviewed me. I felt so happy because at least, I was given the honor to put on the garland to her and performed for all of them as a handbell ringer. Even after the performance, I was so nervous because of what might be the result. “Whatever the result will be, I’ll always be thankful for everything.” Unexpectedly, I heard my name and all of my companions in the handbell ringers looked at me, clapping their hands and that’s the time I realized that it was real. I was so shocked that made my hands shake. I went up with costumes on and thanked God and all of them for having me as one of their scholars. “The fashion designer;” “One day make a beautiful dress and be a great fashion designer”. Those are the words that Sir Achim and Ma’am Ilwa said while shaking my hand. I am so thankful for everything and I know that this will change my life.