

Dear Bautista Family,

As we get closer to this amazing holiday of Thanksgiving, I'd like to take time out of my day to thank you all for giving me this opportunity to continue attending Cristo Rey. Before I received this scholarship my parents were struggling financially with many things, it was getting to a point where we were thinking of what public schools I could transferee to since paying tuition wasn't going to be an option anymore. When I reveled the news to my parents they were thrilled and beyond happy and proud of me. I will never forget those smiles on their faces as they hugged me and congratulated me for this accomplishment.

I am currently a sophomore and I spent both my freshman and sophomore year working at Riley Safer Holmes & Consila LLP. This law firm is located in Chicago downtown, they have provided me with so much knowledge that I know will come in handy once I apply for other jobs or even at school. I work with Human Resources (HR) and sometimes even help different teams such as IT or Marketing. My favorite part besides lunch time during work is probably when I get the chance to work with marketing on either making the news letter or the week or a holiday flyer! They are always so interesting to work on and fun since my creative side comes out.

Growing up in Pilsen hasn't always been easy since gang violence is always rising but I love how somehow after all the sad and scary incidents pass, we all still stay connected like a community. I love how rich we are in culture and how we celebrate El 16 de September. The parade they do down on Cermak is always a must see! Just hearing my people and seeing my flag being shown off high and proud makes my skin crawl. Even though I grew up in Pilsen I did have to move to a suburb when I was around 6th grade. That change had impacted me a lot since I had moved to a mainly white suburb. I wasn't used to the number of stares and whispers, I remember how people would talk behind my back since they knew I was Mexican, what made this worse was when I'd have to get pulled out of class during reading time since my English wasn't every good. I'd have to spend my reading time with a small group of kids all Mexican as well who were also not the best with English. That's where I made my little friend group that I felt I could connect with since not only did we speak the same language but also, we shared the same culture.

With this scholarship I know I have so many opportunities waiting for me in the future, thank you so much for helping kids just like me who struggle to pay tuition. Thank you for your generosity and support to my education at Cristo Rey.

Sincerely,
Diocelina M.