

## Samples of Students' Journal Entries

1. Today, I didn't know quite what to expect. The minute I got there, I was given the task of working in physical therapy. There was a man with Alzheimer. He was very friendly. He was also very funny!! We all found ourselves in conversation with him and we were having a good time. We also spoke with his wife...they are a neat couple!

*Biblical reflection – The birth of Jesus: Today through my work I have come to realize the need that these people have and the lack of life in some of them I, like Jesus, am here to bring back some of that lost life.*

2. Today I came to work with much more confidence. There was a woman who was very enjoyable to talk to. She wanted to know why I was off school. When I told her, she was very surprised and told me she wished she had that when she was in high school...But the biggest compliment came from one of the residents. She said I was a big help and that she admired the work I was doing. There are things that make this project worthwhile.

*Biblical reflection - Those who saw you, like John the Baptist, say you are someone good and powerful. You had an impact on their lives, especially the outcasts. I feel that some of these people are modern outcasts. Help me to make an impact on their lives.*

3. For the most part, today was an exact carbon copy of yesterday. There is not much variety. But in a way, that is good. I am very quickly getting used to my job. Once again I got to discharge two patients. I had fun talking to one of the patients on the way to the exit, but the other one was rather crabby. I don't know why she was like this...I tried to act pleasantly. When this lady was getting into her car, she smiled and told me, "Thank you." This made me feel good.

*Biblical reflection - Chapter 2 of St. Paul's letter to the Philippians tells us that we have fellowship in the Spirit and that we have kindness and compassion for one another. It goes on to tell us to have the same thoughts, to share the same love, be humble toward one another and to look out for each other's interests. One reason I am getting so used to my job is the nurses are making it seem as if I am one of them. Of course, I am humble toward them because they know what they're doing and I don't...*

4. One of the nurses made me some chocolate chip cookies...It made me realize how much they consider me as one of their own.

*Biblical reflection - In the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 3 says that it does not matter who plants the seed and who waters the seed, because God will make it grow into a plant. This means through doing my jobs and the nurses doing theirs, we are working together according to God's master plan. It feels good to be a part of a program that can do so much good for so many people.*