

Samples of Students' Journal Entries (cont.)

5. ...Of course there are always the patients who are crabby and constantly complaining about something. But I always think of Chapter 13 of St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians: "Love is patient and kind, it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrong; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope and patience never fail." This seems to be the philosophy that the entire work force at St. Joseph's Hospital. A lady that I was discharging today told me how nice everybody was to her and that they never used a sarcastic word around her. From the administration to the secretaries, to the nurses and doctors and even maintenance people; they all seem to love as St. Paul and Jesus Christ want us to...it feels good to be a part of it all.
6. It's over, the time spent at Southview is over, but not forgotten. The day was nice, the classes both held a going away party for me and gave me a hat with the kid's names on it...But we had to say good-bye. As I saw the kid's faces for the last time, so innocent, sweet, I know I'll miss them...and the good times. I've learned a lot in three weeks about work, special people and life itself.

Biblical reflection - The story from Matthew is good for this ending, to build the kingdom, and find hidden treasure. I hope I have built hope in the kids for a brighter future, to find the treasure they look for...

7. I tend to associate myself with the man who was given the two talents of money. He is the humble middle-man; his talents are evident, but not exceedingly great. His greatest virtue is to make the best of what he has and to accept his position in life with humble pride. Similarly, I am not the most talented person on earth, but I firmly believe that my job here is to do the very best I can to use my gifts to change the life of another for the better. All day, today, I was put into that position where I could be a factor in someone else's happiness...I think I can see better now, the reason Jesus loved service to others so much; the gratitude in the eyes of those whom you have helped brings about a feeling so wonderful that it is hard to put on paper. I suppose the best way to describe it would be to simply say that I firmly believe that God was near.

