

Xavier Savelino

Most Eye-opening/Unforgettable moment in the Philippines.

The hole trip was amazing however 2 moments really stood out to me and those to events have made an impact on the way I aspire to live and love.

One of the two moments was during our time in the outlying school visitation. It was the last night at Ilog Catholic High School and an overwhelming experience was on the uprising. I barely remember the question we were given however it was something along the lines of 'what part of this journey so far has opened your eyes?' My response to Sir David's question helped me reach a goal I had set on day two; to mentally/emotionally touch someone!

"Agh, today I've learnt two major lessons. So as we were strolling along home from fishing today my

brother Carlo gave me a gift, and I thought it was soo great and great and thoughtful...". at this point tears begun to fall because Carlo's (green shirt) eyes were already dreaded.", and at that moment I had nothing to give back! So this kinda gave me the chance to look back and realise that I need to give more then I get! Carlo also showed me that family isn't just who carries your blood, it's who you



love and who loves you. So thank you Carlo."

It was an amazing feeling touching the heart of an adolescent who is older than me. It was a feeling that you could metaphorically get high on. That one experience is the one that I struggle to explain with words and it's also the experience that keeps me coming back for more. So through the way I live, I hope to continuously experience these heartfelt moments.

The second most eye-opening experience was during our time in Anawim. The orphanage is for the less fortunate kids who cannot hear. As we visited, my brothers and I were entertained by these touching children. During one of the dances I came to the realisation that those kids were the same ages as my younger siblings and if my siblings were like them, I wouldn't be the person I am today. That reality check made me appreciate family and friends more and it's amazing how a handful of disadvantaged children taught me this lesson and brought me to tears.

So all up, this has well and truly changed my perspective on life and the way I hope to live. Words cannot describe how much I am thankful for this experience but ga pa salamate!

