Do you love me?
John 21:15-17

Student artwork by Doreen Zheng, St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School

Education through the roof!

Last month I had an opportunity to watch a movie with my family on Netflix called: *The Midnight Sky*, directed by George Clooney. Augustine Lofthouse, who was also played by Clooney, is a scientist who must venture through the Arctic Circle to warn returning spaceship from Jupiter's habitable moon K-23 about a global catastrophe. Augustine beats all the odds and saves the crew by advising them to return and start a new life. I admire space movies because they make me realize how little we are and how big the universe truly is. There is something in it that reminds me about my faith journey toward something that I will never be able to grasp in this lifetime.

Recently, we read a very similar story in the Gospel of Mark 2:1-12, where four friends took upon themselves the mission to take their paralyzed friend to Jesus to be healed. We can only imagine how much planning and creativity they put into bringing their paralyzed friend in front of Jesus. After realizing that they cannot enter the house because of the crowd, they opened the roof and lowered the mat with their friend from above.

Both stories present to us: courage, determination, and creativity to complete the goal of their mission. Looking at our schools today, we can all find ourselves in a very similar situation. Our plans change every day due to the circumstances, but we keep advancing to deliver education and support to our students. As educators, we are called on a mission, sometimes having to beat all the odds of what is happening around us.

It is not easy, but we rely on one another's help to reach the goal. God will see our efforts and bless us as he blessed these four friends and granted their friend healing. There will always be those who complain and criticize as scribes criticized Jesus in the Gospel story. Let us not be discouraged but start relying on one another's help and focusing on our mission's goal, even if that might take us sometimes through the roof.

By Fr. Andrija Petresin, School Chaplaincy Leader, Corpus Christi CSS