­Our families and communities often define us and our individual worlds. Community might refer to your cultural group, extended family, religious group, neighborhood or school, sports team or club, co-workers, etc. Describe the world you come from and how you, as a product of it, might add to the diversity of the University of Washington. (300 words)

I have never imagined having a religious group as my second family. When I first thought of “church organizations” the image that comes to mind is pure, saintly worshipers that have absolute devotion to God—something that I’m not. However, the more time I spent with them, the more that perspective changed.

I initially joined the church apostles—a community-service group—to serve God. I adored the apostles wearing robes, assisting the priest on the altar. However, I felt that I was not ready to devote my entire life to service, as I had other goals to accomplish. Hence, I never planned on being too involved in my activities there.

After a year of only assisting the priest, one of my seniors asked me if I would join a committee for a nursing home charity project. Intrigued to explore what they do, I accepted the offer. After organizing several fundraisers with them, I realized that we weren’t so different after all. They do have diverse economic conditions and life goals, but we had a common purpose: to serve God by helping others.

No longer feeling like an outlier, the church apostles encouraged me to take part in more community services like organizing seminars and teaching in orphanages. Having a new understanding of community service, I do not merely serve God, I also have fun making memories while doing it. This community made me truly appreciate the joy of helping people.

At UW, I will continue my social service by participating in community service and joining organizations like UNICEF at UW to improve children's welfare through free education, fundraising, and advocacy. There, I will attempt to organize more activities that will not only benefit others, but are also fun and memorable for the peers participating alongside me.