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 are pure, saintly worshipers that have found 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 to serve God and partially because I adored the apostles that wore robes and assisted the priest on the altar. But deep inside, I felt that I was not ready to devote my entire life for service, as there are other things that I want to accomplish. So, I never planned on being too involved in other social activities there.

After a year of only assisting the priest, one of my seniors asked me if I was interested in participating as committee member to donate to nursing homes. Because I was intrigued to find out what they do, I accepted the offer. After organizing several fundraisers with them, I finally realized that they’re not so different from me. They do have diverse backgrounds, economic conditions, and life goals, but we have a common purpose: to serve God by helping others.

I no longer felt like an outlier; the church apostles pushed me to take part in more community services like seminars and teaching in orphanages. It introduced me to a new meaning of community service, not just serving God but also enjoying the fun, bits of memories gathered in those actions. This community made me truly appreciate the joy of helping people.

In UW, I will continue my social service ambitions by participating in community services, joining organizations like UNICEF at UW to improve children's welfare through free education, fundraisings, and advocacy. There, I will attempt to organize more community service activities that are fun and memorable for the peers participating alongside me.