

Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2013

Matt Poynter

St. Jude

"Life is like a box of chocolates." You never know what you're going to get. You just know that you're going to get something with chocolate. You don't know if it's the good, caramel filling or the bad orange cream filling until you actually take a bite. The caramel filling represents good in your life and the orange filling represents the bad in your life. These are challenges you have to work through and overcome. You have to strive to be better, and let God guide you with your situation. Even when it doesn't look good, always go to the next one, because that might be the caramel.

Once you get one of those orange filling-kinds of experiences, it is easy to be bitter. That's why everyone should take the Meinhardt family as an example and make things better, not bitter. It takes faith to be better. It helps if you have a supportive community behind you, like St. Jude and other area schools too. Even when you get those 'orange fillings' experiences, you have to think about the chocolate that is on the other side. You have to deal with the bad stuff to appreciate the good stuff. If you don't do that, you could end up taking all of the good stuff for granted.

Those 'orange fillings' happen too often, for example Sophie's tragic death. My family too knows what tragic means. My mom had cancer when I was in 5th grade. After that my brother suffered a major head trauma when I was in 7th grade. He was in the hospital for several months. My family and I learned life is a box of chocolate and to try everything in that box of chocolate and you will find that 'caramel filling'.

These 'orange fillings' allowed my family to turn to faith. The Holy Spirit made me a better person by realizing there are more of the 'caramel fillings' situations than 'orange filling' situations and to always look for the chocolate. Now all the bad situations seem to me as a chance to make the best of it no matter how bad it looks. My faith lets me see everything in a completely different way for the better.