

When I was a Boy Scout, after every camping trip or large event, we would take a moment to review the pro and cons of our events. We called this Thorns and Roses.

Similarly, at Gonzaga we take time once a cycle to reflect on our past week, and look forward to the future. In the Examen we look at how the Holy Spirit has played a role in our lives, and we give thanks for all the Spirit has done for us.

With it being the end of the semester, I believe it is a good time to talk about how my experience has gone so far.

First the good.

I have enjoyed being a leader on campus. As a fencing assistant coach, and as a Kairos adult leader, I have been able to develop deeper conversations with some of the students. I have been able to know them on a personal level beyond subbing for their teacher in the classroom. I hope the students that I lead have learned as much about me as I have about them.

I also enjoy being a member of the Gonzaga school community. I enjoy everything from eating lunch with colleagues, to having dinner with the Jesuits every Wednesday.

Now on to the not so good.

ASC's have many jobs to do during the day. While I enjoy taking on multiple tasks at once, sometimes I find myself overcommitting to things. For example, one evening I realized I had said "yes" to being two places at once. Thankfully, it worked out well in the end, but it caused unneeded stress for both parties. I think in situations like this arise in the future, I should take time to discern which activity is right for me to do.

Discernment, frequently used when one is discussing religious life, can also be applied to other everyday situations. Discernment means, in a nutshell, that you are considering between two "goods" in your life. Picking one good over the other may be a difficult task, but I have found that it is necessary because one can only say "yes" to so many things.

This Fall semester has been a great experience for me. Next semester will be an exciting one as we have the Freshman Retreat a few weeks after we return from break. I can't wait!