The True Aspect of a Man

What resembles a true Saint Louis man? Is it strength, integrity, courage, intimidation factor? Clarence T.C Ching and many alumni would beg to differ. The answer to this question is how you act towards others. Committing acts of kindness is what indeed resembles a Saint Louis man. Clarence T.C Ching was a man for the people, a philanthropist, and a genuine child of God. He left a legacy behind that I would like to uphold. The way to defend his legacy is to perform acts of kindness.

It was a typical day, and I walked to a restaurant after school to get some food to fulfill our appetites before practice. I walked with my friends, laughing, and we noticed this homeless guy sitting down on the sidewalk. His clothes reeked this unforgettable smell. His hair was oily, and his presence was very unpresentable. And his facial expression was gloomy, and his eyes gave me a mournful sensation. We then walked away and went on with our day. Some of the guys I was with were making fun of the homeless guy, saying how he stinks and should go somewhere else. I let it happen and just continued to walk to the restaurant. This thought in my head was ringing, “You should have done something!” “Why didn’t you help this man!” “How could you walk away and do nothing!” Those thoughts were running through my mind the whole
time I was in line with my friends. A constant echo possessed every thought, causing my mind to go blank and only think about that homeless man.

We got our food, and we were walking back to school to wait for practice to begin. As we were walking, the thoughts still flowing through my head, we came across that unforgettable smell. It was the homeless man. I saw him and was thinking about giving him extra money. However, I hesitated and ended up walking away. At first, it didn’t mean much to me. We got back to school, waited for practice, finished practice, and then I was at home. Throughout the day, I forgot about the homeless man. I forgot about the thoughts that were living in and taking over my brain. However, as I lay in my bed, it all came back. The feeling of regret filled my body, and I lay there restless. I was thinking to myself, why did I hesitate. Maybe because it was peer pressure of getting humiliated? Perhaps it was because I was greedy of giving extra money away? The reason I hesitated remained unknown, even until this day.

The next day, I woke up feeling unrested. My body ached, and my eyes felt like they weighed a hundred pounds. I had about only five hours of sleep. Throughout that whole day, I was struggling to keep awake. The day went by very slowly, and it was time to get food again. We walked to the restaurant, and the homeless guy was sitting there in the same place. The
questions in my head came in a flash. An overwhelming moment of all these questions and these different feelings of guilt, sadness, regret, and this shameful feeling flashed through my body. We move on, grab our food, and walk back. This time I looked at the homeless man. His presence gives the sense of tiredness, restlessness, shame, and sadness. It almost gave off the same feelings that I was experiencing. I reached for my pocket and found a five-dollar bill. I gave the money to the homeless man causing his face to light up. He smiled as if he won the lottery, and in an excited voice, he said to me, “Thank you very much; God bless you.” A feeling filled my body; it was indescribable yet the most extraordinary emotion that has ever taken over me. From that moment, I knew that I would never hesitate to give to the less fortunate.

Ever since that moment, I realized that it didn’t matter what others thought about me. Or if I was giving away my money. All of that didn’t matter when someone who has nothing now has an opportunity to do something. This person is now excited and has the chance to do something they are not able to do. This is what makes a true Saint Louis man. This is what Clarence T.C Ching’s legacy is all about. It is not about being famous, rich, intimidating, strong, or the most courageous. It is about being the one who stands in front of your own needs and
helping those who can’t help themselves. It is about that feeling of accomplishment when you
give to others and always remembering that feeling of guilt when you walk away. From this day
forward, I will uphold his legacy and forever perform acts of kindness.