



## Carlos Smith

Hometown: Detroit, MI

Schools: Loyola High School (class of 2021) and University of Arizona (incoming freshman)

Passion: Debate\* and political science

### Why did you choose to attend Loyola High School?

Essentially, Loyola has always been there in my mind. My uncle works there, and he's worked there for a while now. I had an older brother who also attended Loyola. He passed last year, rest his soul. But he went there, so it was always in the back of my mind as an option to attend coming out of middle school.

### What Jesuit values have resonated with you during your time at Loyola?

Loyola has taught me that loving is a choice. You choose to be that wholesome version of yourself, a man "for others." As St. Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity goes: "to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest." When you start to do those things, you're making the choice, just like St. Ignatius did. Choosing to be loving doesn't mean "I don't see hate," "I don't see color," or "I don't see all these sociopolitical issues." It is that I choose to acknowledge them, and I choose to be loving.

### How did you get started with debate?

Coming out of middle school, I was really into academic competitions at the time. I wanted that same experience coming to Loyola. I was also involved with mock trial, and I really wanted something similar to that. Then I went on to Loyola. Even as I was shadowing my first couple of days, it was just like, "Oh, you should totally do debate." One of my teachers told me that. And I basically said, "Okay, for sure." I eventually went to practice and got started with the debate coach, Miss Gross.

### Are there any Jesuits in particular who've had an impact on your life?

Father Adam DeLeon has always been there for students at Loyola. From day one, he makes an effort to connect with everyone on some level. He grew up in a similar way as most of us, which we talked about on retreats. Coming from that experience, Fr. DeLeon understands a lot of us. And even then, if he doesn't understand you, he'll try to.

---

\*Smith was recently named as the top debater in the state of Michigan. He is the first Loyola student to earn that ranking.