

Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2016

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Hello, I am currently a 7th grader at St. Aloysius Gonzaga School. Over the years, my faith has greatly improved. I have learned that I live with many of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy within my everyday life.

The first Spiritual Work was to Feed the Hungry. I donate lots of food to different charities throughout the year. Every month my parish serves a dinner at Tender Mercies. My family and I donate food for the dinner every month. Within my school we donate to different charities too. On the last Tuesday of every month my school holds an Out of Uniform day. On these Tuesdays you are able to donate canned food that is donated to St. Vincent De Paul. Throughout the school year we also hold different Canned Food Drives. One Drive we hold is for Manna Outreach which the whole school donated food to and the Seventh Grade delivered to Manna Outreach. In our parish we also hold a Fish Fry during Lent. I am able to help by baking desserts for the Fish Fry. My family and I also donate to the Thanksgiving Day Mass, the LaSalle Food Drive, and the Post Office Food Drives. I enjoy donating to these Drives because it makes me feel good about myself that I helping someone who needs this food more than I do.

Another Spiritual Work I practice is to Clothe the Naked. Each month my family and I get all the items and clothing we no longer wear or use and donate them to the Vietnam Veterans of America. I really enjoy this charity because I am able to donate the things that are no longer useful to me and put them to a good use for someone else.

One of the Corporal Works of Mercy I practice is to Instruct the Ignorant. One thing I do is help my classmates with homework if they ever need help. I also help little boys and girls at the Instructional Volleyball League held at my school. Over the summer I also work at the Vacation Bible School program ran between St. Aloysius and St. Jude parishes. I really enjoy helping people with the things they need help with because it makes me feel good that my talents are being put into good use.

I also practice the Corporal Works to Bear Wrongs Patiently and to Forgive Offences Willingly. These Corporal Works teach me to forgive people when they do wrong things. It also helps me to understand to not hold a grudge against another person. I also encourage other people to forgive others when they are upset with them because I know that is what my faith teaches me to do. I also learned that I should forgive others because that is what the Bible teaches every one of God's children to do. I know it is the right thing to forgive others even if I do not want to because God wants everyone to be friends, not enemies.

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Another Corporal Work I practice is to Comfort the Afflicted. This Corporal work teaches me to not be rude to others and treat them with disrespect, but to treat them kindly and how you want to be treated. I also learned that if someone is hurt or being bullied to not just let it keep happening, but to try to help that person get back up and not be afraid of others.

The last Corporal Work I focus on is to Pray For the Living and the Dead. I practice this Corporal Work a lot. Every weekend and Friday at Mass, I give petitions to pray for people who need my prayers. I participate in Mass by serving and reading the petitions. I also helped serve the Memorial Day Mass at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery which was a great experience.

I have really gained a closer bond with God and others by following the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy in my everyday life. I enjoy helping others because it makes me feel good about myself. I hope my acts reflect on others throughout my life, and that I will be able to improve my relationship with God and other people throughout my life.