

Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2016

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The spiritual and corporal works of mercy are very important; we all need to do what they say to help us live the Gospels. These works are so important that the Pope declared that we try to live out one of these works of mercy each month. We should always be applying them to our lives, just like Pope Francis has been telling us. I try very hard to make sure that I am living this way, because it is something that all of us should think about, and we should all try to incorporate these works in our lives.

Every Sunday (or Saturday), I go to Mass, and then at ten-thirty, and I help out at Sunday School. We try to teach the kids about Jesus, and God. Even when they aren't necessarily paying attention, they are still starting to get the concepts of going to Mass on Sundays, and why we do that every week. This shows things about the spiritual work of mercy, instruct the ignorant.

I remember one day, we were playing with play dough. We started to make hearts, because we had extra time before Mass was over that day. All of the kids wanted the helpers to help them make hearts out of their play dough. At some point it had turned into the kids having a competition on who could make the biggest heart. Eventually, we all ran out of play dough, so I asked someone else if they wanted to combine play dough to make a bigger heart. When the kids saw the impact of us sharing the play dough, they all of the sudden all wanted to share. It was a little funny how it all worked out, the kids realized that when they had shared, their heart grew, and that it was better when it could be with others. This is one of those memories that I hope I'll never forget, because I loved how this message came to these little kids. It also occurred to me that day, that maybe I was being called to work with children when I'm older, or even now.

The corporal works of mercy have also had lots of impact on me. My brother volunteers at a soup kitchen every Wednesday, and sometimes I go with him. When I first got to the soup kitchen, I was really nervous. I was scared of these people, what if they were dangerous? Once I got there I started to realize that these people were just like anyone else I had met, and there was no reason to fear them. They were just caught in a bad situation at the moment, and that might not even be their fault. This opened up a whole new world for me. I realized that some people have bigger issues than what's for dinner, or what will I get on that test tomorrow. Some people have to worry about how they'll get dinner for themselves and their family, or how they'll enroll their children in school, so that they can grow up and get a job someday, and not stay homeless or struggling for all of their lives. Feeding the hungry is very important, that is the other thing I realized at my trips to the soup kitchen. I felt that I really wanted to help these people, and I liked doing whatever I could helping out at the soup kitchen.

I'm so happy that I got to do these things. They really helped me grow in my faith, and realize how lucky I was to have a roof over my head, and food on the table. I'm so blessed in life, and I want to help all people that aren't as fortunate as I am.