

Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2016

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St. Jude

Pope Francis has called my generation to live out the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy and be merciful like the Father, and I have decided to take that into my heart and accomplish this task. I honestly think that the Corporal Works of Mercy are the simplest of the works because they are tasks that I believe we are called to be doing every single day. The Spiritual works of Mercy are definitely the harder of the two because they are how we should be learning to live our lives according to the Christ's mission.

Examples of the Corporal Works of Mercy that I accomplish often would be; feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the sick and bury the dead. I have "fed the hungry" by participating in food drives, donating to food pantries, passing out blessing bags and feeding the homeless. I "visit the sick" by going to nursing homes and visiting family members that are in the hospital. I "clothe the naked" by donating what is not needed to those who have less than me. I "burying the dead" by attending funerals of loved ones and helping to support a family who is grieving over a loved one.

Living the Spiritual Works of Mercy is the area that I believe is the most difficult of the two works of mercy but the area that you grow closer to God. Some of the spiritual works of mercy that I live in my everyday life include; counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, forgiving injuries and pray for the living and the dead. I get to counsel the doubtful everyday by going to a Catholic school that my parents have chosen to send me to. My parents choose to send me to a Catholic school so that when I get older I can live out my belief in God and to teach others about our wonderful Creator. I am learning now about my Catholic faith and can then share what I know so that others can welcome it as well.

I am proud to say that every single year in school I have received the "Judite kind and Christ-like" award. I believe that I have earned this award because I have been an example to the people in my class that I am a kind person. I "instruct the ignorant" everyday just by being myself. Wherever I am, no matter if I'm at school, at home or outside I am always instructing the ignorant by my example. I try to share what I know with others, I respond to negatives with positives, I lead my many younger siblings by example, and I stand up for people who can't stand up for themselves.

Another example of a Spiritual Work of Mercy that I do in my life is "forgive injuries and bear

wrongs patiently". If I have done something wrong I am quick to apologize and mean it. I also accept others apologies and move on and try to become better from it. I play on a softball team and when someone makes a mistake I am not negative I simply say it is okay, you will get the next one. I do not make them feel bad for the mistake that they just made, I help cheer them back up and get them ready to make a great play. I believe this is what we are called to do in life, to help people get back up. I was very proud when my coach told my parents that he looks to me as the leader of the team. I believe I earned this by showing my teammates mercy and compassion.

Just from doing these small parts of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy every day in my life I have become close to a lot of good people. The works of mercy have also led me even closer to God than I already was. Now that I have a better relationship with God because of the Corporal Works of Mercy I feel like he is pushing me to do better in my life. There are so many more ways that throughout my life I can accomplish these things. Pope Francis has proclaimed this year a year of Mercy, he has called me to act on the works of Mercy and I accept his invitation!