

SOPHIE MEINHARDT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP 2018

HOW HAS THE GIFT YOU RECEIVED FROM GOD BEEN PUT TO USE FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHER PERSONS?

God has given me many gifts, and I thank God for them every day. One gift that I am extremely thankful for is my talent as a singer. I was in the Our Lady of the Visitation School production of "Annie Jr." I played the role of Annie. I believe that this play brought much joy and happiness to the audience watching. I also believe that this play brought together many groups of kids that would have never hung out. The environment of play practice was so friendly. Everyone would give each other compliments about their singing/acting and encourage them to keep up the great work. I think the production of "Annie was very beneficial to everyone involved.

When I found out about this scholarship, I asked my family what gifts they thought I had. My sister Meredith said, "You are a tutor!" After she said this I thought about how I benefit the girl who I tutor each week. I realized I use my skill of being smart to help this girl, who is struggling in math. Being able to help people is such a wonderful feeling. There is nothing that feels better than to help someone out.

I am preparing for Confirmation this year, so I was thinking of all of my service hours I have been doing to prepare my heart for the Holy Spirit. I have gone to the nursing home to Christmas carol and to paint nails. Each time I have went I could see the residents faces of overwhelmed joy. I could tell that they were so happy to see visitors. When I was at the nursing home I brought smiles and laughter to the residents. I believe to love and to care for someone is the greatest skill you can have as a young teen.

My family and I had formerly taken care of an elderly Italian lady named Millie. She was always super funny, and I loved to be around her. We would always go to her house on Sunday mornings after we went to mass. Millie had a big devotion to Mary, and she would always be praying the rosary. She has inspired me to talk to Mary, and to have a devotion to her as well. Right now, I am reading a book called "33 Days to Morning Glory." It is a book retreat to get prepared for Marian Consecration. If you are not familiar with Marian Consecration it is giving all of your worries and prayers to Mary. When you complete this consecration, you have to be willing to let Mary distribute your prayers to anyone she needs. Each day you read a passage that will help you reflect on your faith. Millie was a huge role model in my faith life, and I hope I am doing her proud. When taking care of her I believe I benefited Millie by giving her someone to talk to instead of sitting alone all day. Millie passed away on January 11th of last year. I often remember her devout devotion to our Mother Mary and hope to live how she would want me to. I am very blessed that God has given me many skills and abilities that benefit others. I hope I can continue to grow through the grace of God and use my abilities to continue helping others.