

I have not done monumental things. I am only twelve years old. I do not have a car, nor do I have a job, but I have been blessed with many gifts. I have been blessed with faith, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. I have been given athletic abilities and musical talents. I am most blessed to have the awareness to use my gifts in small ways to help others. St. Therese the Little Flower once said, "Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word. Always doing the smallest right and doing it with great love."

One of the gifts that I have been blessed with is faith. I use this gift to serve Mass on many Sundays and holidays. When I am not serving, I use my musical ability and cantor at Mass. I collect food for a local food pantry. Doing this helps me live my faith. Also, I collect gifts for the community giving tree during Christmas.

I have also been granted the gift of having athletic abilities. These abilities may help me during sports, but I can also use them for something greater. Most kids sleep in on snow days, instead I get up early and shovel driveways for free. The two main driveways I shovel belong to a wheelchair bound veteran and a teacher who lives alone. Sometimes it is harsh in the freezing cold, but I have found joy in doing it, because I know I am doing the right thing. During the summer, I cut the grass for the wheelchair bound veteran and pulled weeds. I trimmed the bushes and trees and made sure their yard looked nice. Also, when my grandma broke her wrist, I cut her grass for many weeks and helped decorate her house for holidays. During fall, I raked the leaves for my grandma so she would not slip on them if it rained. Friends and family did not ask for help, but I felt like I was called to use my abilities to do the right thing.

One of the greatest gifts that I have been given is awareness. I am able to see when someone is in need and I attempt to help them. If I see an elderly person, I hold the door for them. If someone is in a wheelchair and needs to get to their car, I will help them to their car and help load the wheelchair. Any time I see a veteran, I will stop what I am doing to thank them for their service. A veteran I know, who now serves as a police officer, has a service dog for his PTSD. I will watch his service dog for a week at a time for free because I know the dog needs extra attention. By doing this, I give the veteran a chance to take a break and enjoy himself, knowing that his service dog is in good hands.

I have not done monumental things, but I am blessed with many gifts that allow me to help others. As Saint Mother Teresa said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." The things I do now may be small, but later in life I will use them to do great things and make this world a better place.