

Maia Menzer-St. Paul School-St. Henry High School

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You don't have to do big things to have a big impact. St. Therese thought this as well. She thought that if you do little things, like giving a compliment to someone, you would be making a difference. Small actions can, overtime, have big effects. If you want to make a difference you can start by having gratitude. You know that saying, "It's better to give than to receive"? It's true. I always try to give to the people around me. I don't do huge things like give thousands of dollars to the poor. I do things like stack the trays at lunch or give a couple of old coats to St. Vincent de Paul. They aren't big things, just little ones that can make a big difference over time.

Stacking the trays at lunch is one thing I like to do. I enjoy doing it because I know that I am helping the people who have to clean up after us, and that can be hard sometimes. I have made friends with one person who works hard to make sure we have things to eat off of and clean tables to sit at. They go through things for us, they try their best at trying at making every day enjoyable for us. The feeling that I get at helping those people is phenomenal and I wouldn't trade it for anything. By helping them I am making their lives more enjoyable.

I also donate coats to St. Vincent de Paul. I never really knew where all those coats and other items were going but now I do. A few weeks ago I worked the coat drive. The coat drive is where people who can't afford coats can come there and get them for free for their whole family. I was a shopping assistant, which means I helped people pick out coats for themselves and their families. I remember one family who came they must have had 7 people that came and that still wasn't their whole family. I felt so bad for

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them because they were not able to afford coats and for that many people. I enjoyed helping these people find their coats and I didn't get anything in return. I like that feeling and I will never forget it or that experience.

Serving at mass is also one of my favorites. I have made so many friends just at mass. And when something funny accidentally happens it gives us something to laugh about afterward. There are people up there that I can relate to, sure they are older than I am but that just means more stories. When something goes wrong I can always look to them and they will help me. I serve at school mass and Sunday mass with my friend Courtney. When I walk up and down the aisle I see a woman and she winks at me every time I walk past and I like winking at her back because it makes her smile.

Our school has electives and the elective I joined all three times was called Kids Helping Kids. Kids Helping Kids is where junior high kids help pre-k through 2nd grade learn and understand the things that the teachers are teaching to them. I have been partnered with many different kids and right now I am partnered with a preschooler who speaks Spanish. I have been trying to learn more Spanish words from our Spanish teacher here. Every time I speak to her in Spanish she smiles at me and I feel nice. There is a great feeling you get when you help a kid finally figure something out.

I am the president of Student Council. It is my job to make sure that everything we do we make it fun for everyone. We recently had our open house to give new families tours and the teachers and the student council were in charge of it. I love planning the school dances, but I don't do it alone. I have an amazing team of members

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working with me, we are all friends and love to tease each other. My favorite part of the job is making activities for the little kids, they are great and love competition. They also thank us for the things we do, which is also a really good feeling.

Doing little things like being on student council or stacking trays doesn't seem that important, and that's why we neglect to do them. However they can have a big affect on your future. Someday we all might discover our "little way" to sainthood. But until then we should try to do the menial tasks and take pride in them because we could all benefit from them someday. We should always remember St. Therese and how she guides us to be grateful and giving towards others.