

## **Cameron Middendorf-St. John the Baptist Dry Ridge- LaSalle High School**

My name is Cameron Middendorf and I am in the eighth grade at St. John the Baptist (Dry Ridge) grade school. I first heard about Aubrey Rose this year when I learned about the wonderful educational scholarships that the Aubrey Rose Foundation awards to students. Because I did not know much about Aubrey Rose or her situation, I went to the website to find out more. I was amazed by her story and how much she impacted the lives of so many people, and how she still does impact others through the work of the foundation. She accomplished so much in her brief life here on earth, possibly more than many people do in their long life on earth. Aubrey Rose taught others about joy and suffering. She brought joy to others with her smile and her love, despite her suffering. I believe she is not only an angel, but also a saint. She suffered her whole life, probably never sinned, and loved everyone. I think that makes her a saint. After reading and thinking about Aubrey Rose, I began to think about my own life. I want to be sure that I always do my best to impact the lives of others and help others, like Aubrey Rose.

When my mom was pregnant with me, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had multiple surgeries during the pregnancy and was very worried about losing her baby (me) during this time. Mom became very close to God while she went through this, and, thankfully, she and I did fine through it all. She has been cancer free since then, and I was born a healthy baby. Mom calls me her “miracle baby.” I am telling this story because it makes me believe God helped me into this life so I can do great things for others and for Him, just like Aubrey Rose.

I believe our purpose in life is to love one another, serve others, and help each other get to heaven. I've had many opportunities to impact the lives of others. At my church, I have participated in many volunteer activities. I have helped serve meals for several years at Breakfast in Bethlehem during Advent, and the fish fry during Lent. I have volunteered at our parish festival for many years, and I have been a server at church since the fourth grade. As an experienced server, I often help teach and mentor the younger servers, and I have volunteered at Ministry Day for the new servers. I feel that being a server is helping bring God to people's lives. This past summer, I volunteered at our church's Vacation Bible School. It was fun to help little kids learn about Jesus, and I hope that I helped them become closer to Jesus.

An event at my church that I am proud to volunteer for is the “Living Stations of the Cross.” This is a re-enactment of Christ's passion through scripture, prayer, drama, and music. It is done by our youth ministry group every year during Lent. I have been a part of this since the second grade as a cast member. The purpose is prayer, and this

impacts people's lives because it is a really meaningful way to bring people closer to Christ.

An event in the community that I am very proud to have been a part of for several years is "40 Days for Life." This is a prayer campaign to help end abortion and protect the unborn. My family and I have actively participated in this event several times a year for many years. I am proud to be pro-life and be able to do something to impact the lives of so many in the community. I believe our prayers in front of the abortion clinic help many people in that community have a change of heart about abortion. This impacts the lives of the unborn babies, the mothers, and the families of the unborn.

At home, I help my parents with chores, such as cleaning and yard work. This is helpful to our family more than ever now as my parents often need to help take care of my aging grandma. My parents have always been willing to help others and have taught me the importance of serving others.

These are all ways I think I have made a difference in the lives of others and I plan to continue to help others and serve others as much as I can. I am excited to be going to LaSalle High School next year. I look forward to the new opportunities for service there. I plan to continue to do more great things for others and for God as a high school student at LaSalle.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this scholarship. I would be honored to receive an Aubrey Rose Foundation educational scholarship.