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Just Trying to be Normal

There I was, sitting at the Parish Kitchen, a local food pantry, listening to Mrs. Navin talk to us. She is the director at the Parish Kitchen. She gave us a little talk about what she does and how it impacts people. There was one small saying that really caught my attention. She explained that we are all God's children, and that she will serve anyone that comes to the kitchen. Mrs. Navin said that she is doing nothing special or outstanding. She is just being normal or average. She said that everyone is supposed to help people in need. Ever since I went to the Parish Kitchen, I have tried to do nice things for people, but I have tried to think of them as normal. It is hard not to be rewarded for things, but it makes me more holy and a friendlier person.

Now, let me tell you a little bit about myself. I am an eighth grader at St. Pius X School. I am a thirteen-year-old girl who swims, plays the flute, and plays volleyball. Recently, our Bishop came to St. Pius and confirmed my eighth grade class and me. My Confirmation sponsor gave me a card, and enclosed in the card was some money. Next to the money, there was a note. The note said that Confirmation is about giving back to your community, parish, or school; helping any way that you can. Then it said that it would be very nice if I gave the money to an organization of some kind that could truly benefit from the money. I gave the idea some thought. For a few days I kept thinking to myself, "Whom would this money help?" After a couple of days, I had made up my mind. I would give the money to the Parish Kitchen. Even though I do not go there for free meals, they have impacted my life greatly. I cannot wait to drop off a meal and the money, too. Most of all, I cannot wait to see the people's smiling, happy faces.

In my school and parish, I volunteer a lot. I am student council president, I participated in rosary club for five years, and I lector at school masses. Recently, I helped take down Christmas decorations in our church. Also, I am a server at mass. As an eighth grader at St. Pius X, I have also completed twenty-four hours of community service. However some things that make people smile are easier to do than most people think. For example, waving to people or just smiling brightens their day. I always try to do this, because you never know what they are going through.

I also played volleyball for 5 years at my school. A few years ago, we participated in a tournament that sponsors a scholarship for a little girl named Elana Brophy. She died of cancer at age 9. She reminds me a lot of Aubrey Rose. Even if these two girls were only on Earth for a short duration of time, I'm sure that they have filled people with joyous memories for years to come. I am impressed by these inspiring stories. I too, had medical problems as a child. I was born two months early. The doctors told my parents that they weren't sure if I was going to live. However, here I am perfectly healthy. The doctors called me a miracle baby. Throughout my thirteen years on Earth, I'm definitely grateful that God allowed me to be a miracle.

Personally, I think that every day we need to stop and take a moment to pray and thank the Lord that we are here on Earth. We should live life to the fullest because every sad day that goes by is one less happy day that we can have. There are three things that I strive to do each day. They are loving, laughing, and caring. I concentrate on doing these three things to become a better person.