

Reece Niederhausen – Our Lady of Victory – St. Xavier High School

There are many different activities that I participate in at Our Lady of Victory and at home that have given me the opportunity to make a positive impact on others. First, I am involved in many different academic and service clubs at OLV: Student Council, the Ambassador Board, the Environmental Club, and the National Junior Honor Society. It is within these groups that I have provided countless hours of service and help to others including: mulching the school grounds, assisting in designing and creating an urban playground, making care packages for service men and greeting cards for older parishioners who are sick and serving as a homeroom representative for two younger classrooms.

Second, I am a member of the Our Lady of Victory Grade School Players. This is a group of current students who perform in the school musical. Over the last three years I have been casted in one of the lead roles in the school play which has allowed me much experience and training in what to expect from the directors of the show. For the past two years I have shared this knowledge with many of the younger students who were auditioning for the play. I worked with them on recess and during our pre-audition practices trying to give them some tips about how to do well during their try-out. I enjoy being a leader during the months of preparation for the performances helping the younger students learn the routines at practices, the expectations of directors, and even their lines. Last year I won an award from another student for having them all the lines of the play memorized so that I could fill in whenever anyone needed someone to practice with. One of the most rewarding things another parent told me last week is that I am their daughters favorite eighth grader because I help everyone feel comfortable at the practices.

Third, I am a member of Boy Scout Pack 909. It is within this troop that I work with other boys to be a better person. We work together and challenge each other to complete tasks we never thought we could do: become an Eagle Scout, complete the mile swim at camp, climb to the top of the highest wall at Camp Kern, etc. Within the Boy Scout Troop, I serve two additional roles: the pack Chaplain and a Den Leader. Here I am a leader and role model for the younger scouts. I get to reinforce the importance of doing what is right, showing respect for others, and treating others as you

Reece Niederhausen – Our Lady of Victory – St. Xavier High School, page 2 of 2

would like to be treated.

Next, I am an active participant in our school and parish masses by being an alter server, a member of the youth choir and a lead cantor. I have been blessed with a gift of singing and it is something that I enjoy doing so when I was approached about joining the choir I did not hesitate. I have taken on the role of being one of the only male students in the choir with the goal of increasing the number of boys participating over the next few years. One of the most rewarding roles I have as a part of the choir is assisting a fourth grader who is multi-handicapped. He has a set right next to me in the choir area so that I can help hold his hymnal and lead him to communion. He is an awesome kid and I am so glad that I was chosen to be the person to help him so he too can participate in the choir.

Finally, I feel like I have a positive impact on my family at home. My mom refers to me as “my sweet boy” because I am a pleaser; a person who tries to do what is right and expected of them. I am committed to being a son that my parents can be proud of. One of my biggest fears is that I would let my parents down or disappoint them, so I strive to not allow this to happen. I am committed to being true to myself and living up to my parents dream for all of their children- that we live up to our potential and that we are happy. Overall, you can see there are a variety of ways that I am involved in my school, parish, and home life that have allowed me to have a positive impact on others, just like Aubrey Rose did.