

Clara Venneman - St Therese School – Holy Cross High School

My parents have always taught me from an early age to help people around me when it is possible for me to do so. I have taken this lesson to heart. I have helped people in my school community, my parish community, the community that I live in, and the people in my family.

I have helped my school community in a variety of ways. I have participated in fund raisers at St. Therese that have benefitted many different people and different communities. I am currently the president of student council and I lead my school in a very positive way. I have chaired raffles to raise money for the benefit of St. Therese School. I have also participated in High Five Fridays at school. On these Fridays we stand outside and greet the students coming into school to make sure they start their day off on the right foot.

I have also been active participant and helper in my parish. For the last 4 years I have served mass many times. I have served when I was on the schedule to serve mass as well many times when I was not on the schedule when someone who was scheduled did not show up. I also sing weekly in the choir at the school masses. I have volunteered for the last 4 years at our parish turkey festival. I helped by assisting elderly parishioners with their trays, serving them deserts, and by throwing away their trash when they finished their meal. I have also helped my dad set up the parish festival and volunteered to run a kid's booth at the festival for the last few years.

In my community, I help and give back as much as I can. I wrap trees to give out to the elementary school students for Arbor Day celebration in our community. I also volunteer to work at the Arbor Day booth at our community block party. I assist by getting children to enter a coloring contest and teaching them about the importance of planting trees. I also help people in my community with walking their dogs, taking care of their dogs while they are on vacation, or helping elderly neighbors take their dogs to the vet.

The biggest area where I give back and help is with my family. My mom has two sisters with Down Syndrome. My aunts Judy and Michelle live with my grandma. I help out by going over to my grandma's house and sitting with my aunts. I also help with my aunts when we go out to dinner. Last May, I traveled with my grandma and my aunts on an airplane. I was the one helping to calm down both of my aunts while on the airplane. I love my aunts very much and love when I am able to help them even if it is just by being there to talk to my grandma, take care

of my aunts, or doing needed yard work at my grandma's house. I help my grandma and my aunts, but they also help to be a better person. I love to help everyone, especially those people who need extra help.

As you can see, I have taken the lesson I have been taught about helping people and put into practice in many places. In completing these activities, I have helped people, but in turn these people have helped me. These experiences have helped shape me into the person I am today. I have learned in life, that if you give of yourself and help people, people will help you. I have been blessed greatly in my life. I know feel it is my responsibility to pass these blessings on and pay them forward. After all helping is getting me one step closer to Heaven.

Thank you for taking the time to read my essay and for your consideration in this scholarship.

Sincerely,

Clara Venneman

St Therese School