

Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2011

By Kaitlyn Reid

When I first read the scholarship topic, “Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God” I had a stumped feeling. I thought to myself, “How many times have I done something that was acting on my own free will and I did not have any intention of getting something out of it?” A few things started to come to my mind but they were simple things that I did not consider significant. Such as when a classmate dropped a large stack of papers, I stopped and helped pick them up. Or once when my brother had a homework question and my mom was busy, I stopped what I was doing and helped him without being asked. Another action that came to me was when I sat by a friend at lunch that was sitting all alone. I left my table and sat by her and tried to make her feel better. There was also a time that I helped my Aunt by playing with my little cousins while she cleaned up and made dinner. These actions are things that I have done without thought and without hesitation. I would help someone if they needed it and would never expect something in return.

Another act that came to my thoughts that may be the most significant act is when I heard that a new student that was starting school at St. Jude in the beginning of my sixth grade year. She was moving to Cincinnati from Atlanta. I found out about her from her cousin that plays on my soccer team. There were two days before the first day of school and my family and friends were all meeting at the pool for one last day of swimming. I asked my mom if we could get the new student’s phone number and invite her to go swimming with us. I thought it would be nice to meet her and introduce her to a few other girls in our class. We were able to get in touch with her and she was very excited to get the chance to meet some of her new classmates before the first day of school. We had a nice day getting to know her. This helped make her first day of school much easier. She smiled when she saw me in her homeroom. I was glad that I could help make her feel welcome to St. Jude.

Many of these actions seem to be things that I should do without thinking, without expecting anything in return. Although the acts seem simple, they do bring happiness to others and I do get a good feeling inside, so I guess they really aren't so insignificant after all. In my everyday life there are many opportunities for me to act selfless, giving to others as Jesus would. As I look at my life, these selfless acts are part of who I am and who I want to continue to be.