

Emily Lockwood

My name is Emily Lockwood and I go to school at St. Dominic. About seven months ago my grandpa went into the hospital because of kidney failure and his cancer got worse all at the same time. He went in on a Thursday, but on that next Saturday things were looking pretty bad for my grandpa. That night the doctors announced that he would not live to see Sunday, but if he did, he would have a chance of living. My mom stayed with my grandpa and my aunt in the hospital all night. When I went to bed that night I was in tears and the first thing I did when I woke up was run to my dad and ask him if my grandpa was still alive. He answered with a smile on his face, "Yes, he is." It took me a while to realize that my prayers had come true and that my grandpa was still alive, but when I did I hugged my dad with all my might and said "I knew he could do it, I just knew it." Since then my mom was constantly at the hospital watching my grandpa get better. During these tough times it seemed like I didn't have a mom because she was hardly around and when she was at home she was sleeping. So, every day when I got home from school I would do the dishes without being told and I would change the wash with the help of my brother. I would try to be as helpful as possible, if my mom wanted a drink, I would give her one, if she asked me to do something, I would do it right away. Anything that I could do to make her less stressed or less worried, I would do it. During these long months my grandpa progressed to the point of being able to go into the nursing home and then onto going back home. The doctors also said that my grandpa would never walk again, well that was a lie too because he is walking just fine now. I guess all those prayers I said must have paid off.

One recent thing I've done over the past few months is helping my next door neighbor who has two kids, a dog and a husband who is off in Iraq. Whenever she needs anything at all I am always there to give her a helping hand. If she needs me to babysit at any time for any reason she can always count on me to be there to do the job. If the family goes out of town I will go over to their house and take their dog out of its cage and feed it. Also, during the winter months I help my elderly neighbors by shoveling their driveways. They're always happy to come home and see it finished.

Some other things I have recently done are being a Eucharistic Minister and also helping my grandparents put up their Christmas tree and decorations. I am really glad that I signed up to be a Eucharistic Minister because I love the feeling it gives me every time I give the precious blood to any of the parishioners. In school if they need another Eucharistic Minister for any reason I am always volunteering to help do it. I also get the same feeling when I help my grandparents put their Christmas tree up. When I look at their satisfied faces when the tree is all up I am always glad that I took the time to help them.

In school I help the student council by collecting the gloves that our school collects for the poor and I also help stuff envelopes and staple candy grams. I am also ready to help the teachers any time they ask students to help. When our teachers asked us if anyone could help set up for Christ Renews His Parish I volunteered the first time because I needed service hours, but the second time they asked to help set up I already had all the service hours I needed, so I volunteered just because of how good it made me feel the first

time I helped. Last year when our P.E. teachers needed help teaching the first grade gym class, a few of my friends and I volunteered to skip our study hall every Monday and Thursday to go and help. I am also very proud to say that in school if someone is down on themselves or just plain out sad, I am always trying to make them laugh or at least take their mind off what the problem was earlier. Some of my friends think that if I can't make a person laugh then no one can. I feel that this is a good quality to have and I think it really makes a difference in the lives of the people that I make laugh and feel better about themselves. I believe that laughing and smiling makes the world go round.