

Tommy Boeing

During my nine years at St. Teresa I have always tried to be thankful for all the blessings I have in my life by giving to those who are less fortunate. Every Christmas my mom chairs the parish Giving Tree program. I spend the Sunday before Christmas sorting, packing, and delivering gifts to families in Lower Price Hill. I have also been a server at mass for the past three years and if I serve a funeral, the money I receive I donate to the family charity of choice or the St. Vincent De Paul boxes in the vestibule at church. I feel it is one of the Cardinal Rules to “bury the dead” and my duty as a Christian to do it without receiving anything in return. But I feel I have helped the most through my acting. My friend, Tony, died in first grade while having open heart surgery. It was the week before Thanksgiving and a very difficult holiday season for Tony’s family. In fifth grade I performed in my first show, A Christmas Carol, and maybe it was divine intervention or just “dumb luck” that I would be playing the role of Tiny Tim; a child in need during the holiday season with a family struggling to keep from losing him. I decided that the money I received for that role should be donated to a worthy cause. I have been in A Christmas Carol for four years now and, though I no longer play Tiny Tim, each year I have dedicated my performance to all the children who can’t be with their families at Christmas; especially the ones in the Cardiac Unit. And have donated the money I receive for my role to the Cardiac Unit of Children’s Hospital in memory of Tony. I also send flowers to Tony’s mom each year on Tony’s anniversary so that she knows someone is thinking of her. I hope that somehow I have touched a life to make things better in some small way.