

Catherine Barron – St Dominic School - Saint Ursula Academy

If you look at yourself in a mirror the person staring back at you holds all your morals, hopes, and dreams. God created you with a purpose. He blessed each of us with unique gifts. He filled us up with love, faith, and passion and sent us on a journey. By letting go and giving all your faith to God you can climb the highest mountains and achieve some of the most extraordinary things. My final goal as a child of God and a traveler on this journey is to continue the mission that Jesus started when he entered this world. By positively impacting everyone I meet I can fulfill this promise. Although I have just started this adventure, I have already created lifelong friendships and bonds, contributed my talents to St Dominic Student Council, served God throughout St Dominic parish, and impacted my community through my Irish culture.

In John 15:12 Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Bringing the light into someone else's darkness can positively affect their life. As we are all God's children, I can deepen my bonds with my peers through our faith in Jesus Christ. I strive to celebrate their success and always be there when life gets hard, and they need someone to lean on. When Jesus died on the cross, he gave us the ultimate sacrifice out of everlasting love. I see God in every single person, so by spreading a smile and abundantly radiating love as Jesus did. I can reflect the love Jesus shared with us. I hope to give everyone someone to walk hand and hand on their faith journey.

One way I have positively affected my community is by being an officer on St Dominic's student council. Through this after school club I can exemplify my gifts of leadership, hard work, and resilience. I am able to spread God's joy not only to St Dominic's Parish, but the community around me. Over these past four years I have helped facilitate the Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, greeted everyone's day over daily morning announcements, and fundraised money for many local nonprofit organizations. Through this opportunity I am able to reach out to the greater community.

I have been able to deepen my relationship with God and positively impact St Dominic Parish by being a server and Eucharistic Minister. By serving God directly I have been able to realize the importance of faith and community. This opportunity has connected me with my other parishioners because we all have the common goals of heaven.

Erickson Academy of Irish dance has given me a direct connection to my Irish roots. It has given me an opportunity to dance all around the city and spread joy through my Irish culture. As well as giving me an outlet to drive my competitive spirit. Through my living community I can make connections to younger dancers by giving them someone to look up to. I can set an example and positively impact their Irish dancing experience, so they can feel the same way about Irish dancing as I do.

Throughout these past years I have gotten closer to my parish community, shared my gifts with St Dominic through student council, and spread my Irish heritage

throughout the city of Cincinnati, all in the name of God. I have through these opportunities been shaped into the young woman I am today. I have learned the core values of faith, hard work, and academic excellence. As I move forward into high school and continue my faith journey I can use these gifts God has blessed me with to impact more people in my community through my words and actions. Highschool will be a time of change and growth, but through it all I will reflect the light God has given me, and continue my faith journey.