

## **Dominic Dressman - St. Pius X School - Covington Catholic High School**

“Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”

-Proverbs 11:25.

Ever since I was very young, I was always taught to help others in need. I was taught this in my home, parish and school. I have been blessed to grow up in an environment that emphasizes the importance of giving and doing for others. Growing up doing service, I enjoy helping others in many ways and this is how I have affected people around me. Even before I was born, my family would help people in need at the Rose Garden Mission in Covington, KY, which we still do to this day. Our family has been heading the parish Advent Giving Tree since before I was born and over the years I have taken on more and more responsibility in this project. When I was 8 years old, my Dad helped to start and became a leader of the St. Pius X Youth Group and every Sunday I would go to church and help my Dad set up the activities. Of course, going to a Catholic school, many other opportunities for serving others have also been part of my faith journey.

In the Youth Group, we would demonstrate many acts of service specifically in donating food and clothing for families in need. I quickly picked up the act of service and at my 10th birthday party, instead of receiving toys and things I wanted, I asked all of my friends to bring baby wipes, diapers, and other items that young mothers would need. We managed to bring a load of diapers and wipes to the Rose Garden Mission and they gave them away to struggling young moms in need. The Franciscan Daughters of Mary that run Rose Garden had just run out of diapers to give away that very day and were pleased to have our help.

Since then, I have been involved in serving my parish as well. Typically, I am a server and a sacristan for Masses at St. Pius X, but unfortunately, I have not been able to serve this year due to Covid19 guidelines and restrictions. I like serving the Masses because I feel it is important to help my parish celebrate Mass easier and more efficiently with the help of servers and sacristans. This past year, my friend's grandma sadly passed away so my friends and I decided to pay our respects by waiting outside

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the funeral Mass and praying the Rosary for his grandma. Prayer for others is an important way to serve as well. After the funeral, we went into the church and wiped down the pews, and cleaned the dishes used in the Eucharistic celebration.

The most involved and impactful service I have done, and still do, has been with the Advent Giving Tree at St. Pius X. For the past 16 years, my family has led this ministry. I was brought up with this ministry since birth and it has helped me to understand the importance of finding opportunities to help others. Over the years, my parents have given me more and more responsibility in this endeavor. Our family has always looked at the Giving Tree as a blessing in our lives to have the opportunity to serve others like Christ did. With the Giving Tree, we organize and plan the sponsorship, collection, storage and distribution of 1200 or more gifts each Advent. It is a large undertaking and the Giving Tree serves people from Rose Garden Home Mission, Welcome House of Northern Kentucky, Madonna House of Northern Kentucky and New Hope Center. We usually spend the last day loading up a huge box truck filled with gifts and delivering them to the agencies. The smiles on the faces tell me how much this helps them to help others.

Other things I have been involved in is volunteering at St. Pius X Vacation Bible School by leading groups of younger children. I also volunteer at the parish festival. Many of these service opportunities were not available this year due to Covid19. I am really hoping that life can get back to normal soon and these service opportunities can happen again.

I believe service is a very important part of a balanced life and I should be doing some act of service every day, whether it is big or small. I am blessed to be attending Covington Catholic High School. I have learned that CCH places a large importance on service as well. They even give students the opportunity to earn a Varsity Letter in service after completing a certain number of extra hours, which sounds unique and cool

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to me. I love helping people and making sure no one has to struggle. I plan to continue to affect the lives of others with service in the future and dedicate lots of time to giving to the poor. There will always be someone in need. I want to thank you for taking the time to read my essay and for considering me for the Aubrey Rose Scholarship.