

Noah Jeffreys – St. John the Baptist Harrison – St. Xavier High School

“For it is in giving that we receive.” This is a quote from St. Francis of Assisi, my Confirmation saint. This quote really describes who I am. The best gifts you can give are those that come from the heart. I give to others through my talents such as singing, acting, dancing, and art. I love visiting nursing homes. I like to sing for the residents there and put on shows with my family. Although I can't visit nursing homes this year due to COVID-19, I've been able to make the residents Halloween and Christmas cards and bring them sweet treats that hopefully brought them a little cheer!

I love to share my talents through theater, which I've been involved with since I was a kid. My favorite part of theater is seeing the joy on the audience's face after each performance. I'm currently involved with CCM Junior MTI and NKU Mainstage, which has been challenging because the rehearsals have been virtual. However, I know there are a lot of younger actors who look up to me, so I make sure to set a good example by coming to practice with a positive attitude and ready to work.

I do many different events through my school/parish at St. John the Baptist. This year for our annual food drive I went around my neighborhood collecting over 200 cans of food for those in need, I did extra chores around the my house and at my grandparents to raise money for Sister Rose raffle for the missions, and our class chose a family in need and we all brought in gifts for different members of the family so they could have a good Christmas. We also take tags off the giving tree each year for those in need and I enjoy picking out the boy's gift. I also look forward to volunteering every year at our school's festival. I love running the games and seeing the kids having fun!

Every year our family participates in the Cincinnati Walks for Kids, where we walk in memory of my brother, Timmy, who died of Trisomy 13 shortly after he was born. We donate the money from the walk to Starshine Hospice program. This program comforted me, and I hope that this program will help others in the same situation as I was once in. Timmy has taught me that life is precious!

Every year I also have a lemonade stand/bake sale with my siblings. We work together to make and prepare things, sell the items we made, and then donate the money to Make a Wish. This is a project I look forward to every year. I like to donate the money we make to Make a Wish in memory of my brother. I know what it feels like to lose someone you really love, and I want those kids out there who don't have much time left in their lives to have their dream come true.

I love helping others because it brings me joy. I love to see others smiling in the world, and I like to know that I made somebody's day. I've realized that you don't always have to do big things in your life to make someone feel happy or loved, but the little acts of kindness are the ones that really count. Life is only so short, you have to make the best of it, and I believe that is just what I am doing. As St. Francis of Assisi said, “Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible.”