

Joseph Spaeth - Annunciation Catholic School - St. Xavier High School

Aubrey Rose inspired many with her will to live as she persevered through her diseases to live three years before God took her back. I can only hope that accomplishments of my own can live up to the inspiring and motivating power that Aubrey Rose radiated. I wish that you will consider my entry worthy of the Aubrey Rose Scholarship. However, to those who are chosen, may they be the people who can carry out the legacy of Aubrey Rose.

First of all, I believe that I have made an impact at my small parish in Clifton. Annunciation is a small Catholic church that means much to me. It has been my parish since I was born, and I go to the school right next to it. In the church, I play percussion for church chants, I have sung in choir, and I have helped to organize many after Mass and school activities. Lastly, I am an altar server at my church. During these times of COVID in which there are few people showing up to Mass, the role of an altar server becomes much more important.

Jobs following Mass are done by many volunteers willing to properly wash dishes and help close the church. However, these chores are now done by the server after Mass. It takes much time and effort to complete all of these tasks. I hope that by continuing to take up this role, I am helping out the church and helping to make a positive impact on the Annunciation community. In Hebrews 6:10 God says, "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." We must help each other get through difficult times and get to heaven.

In addition to assisting the church, I believe I have also made an impact on the school. I have benefitted the school mainly by helping to organize fundraisers through my position as Student Council President. In this role, I have helped collect and organize items for the St. Vincent DePaul Society, plastic items for the creation of new products, and aluminum for the Ronald McDonald House. I have watched the students of our small school become enthusiastic about activities such as baking sales and recycling projects. We even raised hundreds of dollars selling candy canes as "candy grams" in a school with an enrollment of only about 150 students. Candy grams are a way to make students feel appreciated. We made sure after sales that every student got a treat.

Lastly, I hope that many of my actions at home have affected my parents and my siblings. As the oldest sibling out of four, it is important to aid my two sisters and young brother as they grow up. I'm an important source of advice to them because I've already lived through the years that they are. For our family, I commonly assist my father in major projects to help our home. Fixing pipes, flipping rooms and improving our home help us to live more comfortably. When my baby brother Henry was born, we had to change an office room into a nursery for him. It felt nice to be a part of such a major and important change in our household so that we could welcome Henry home.

These various acts of helping others are what I hope makes me eligible for the Aubrey Rose Scholarship. I believe that I have made an impact on my school, my parish, and in my home. In honor of the legacy of Aubrey Rose and her inspiring story, I hope that you will consider me for this scholarship.

