

William Welge – St. Antoninus – Elder High School

I have made a positive impact in the lives of people in my community in many ways for most of my life. I try to live my best life by treating others the way that I would like to be treated. Leading by example is also very important to me.

Right after my eighth birthday, I started ushering at 9:30 Mass at St. Antoninus Church with four other ushers who I now consider my close friends. It started out by me asking one of the adult ushers if I could help pass out bulletins after Mass. That turned into me becoming the first child usher at my parish. This had a positive impact on the parishioners and guests because it made them happy to see such a young boy involved in serving the church. Ushering is still a very important service that I enjoy providing. Some of the duties of an usher include greeting people as they come to church and making them feel welcome, help people find seats if it's crowded, help elderly or disabled people store their walkers, collect donations during the offertory, count the number of people at Mass and tell the lead usher, and hold the door for people as they leave church.

My family has been involved in the Ronald McDonald House for a long time. I have volunteered several times there by helping serve dinner to families who are staying there while their children are getting treatment or staying in Cincinnati Children's Hospital. This type of service is important to me because I am reminded of my good fortune and my good health. These families need all the help they can get so they can focus their attention on their sick child and if I can do anything at all to make their very difficult time a little happier I will devote as much time as I possibly can.

My favorite thing to do is to help people. I shovel my elderly neighbor's driveway when it snows. I like to hold doors open for people whenever and wherever I can. I like to help with Eagle Scout projects for Boy Scouts. I try to be a friend to everybody by including kids that might be left out. I try to motivate my friends to be the best people they can be. The last thing I want to do is to be bossy, so I offer my friends friendly suggestions instead of telling them what to do. Basically, I just try to be everyone's friend. I want to give a lot of time and effort to the Elder and Greater Cincinnati communities. I am willing to do anything to make the world a better place.