

Jessica Roell – St. John the Baptist, Harrison – Mercy McAuley High School

I affect others in many different ways. I influence people in my parish community by volunteering, my school by being a leader, and at home and with my friends by being helpful and kind to others. I make small choices each day to try to have a positive impact on the people around me. As in the moral to a fable written by Aesop, “No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”

I impact others in my parish community by serving Mass when servers are needed, volunteering at Vacation Bible school over the summer, and taking care of my pal from a younger grade during school Masses. By serving, I am assisting the priest and helping the other servers. When I volunteer at Vacation Bible school, I am helping the adults and encouraging younger kids to learn about God. Lastly, when I take care of my pal at school Masses, I am setting an example for her and teaching her how to behave during Mass. I also am helping the teachers so they can focus on Mass and not worry about making sure kids are behaving.

I influence others in my school community by being a leader as a member of student council and a tour guide at open house during Catholic Schools Week. On student council, I help to organize out of uniform days to raise money for charities, such as hurricane victims and Reach Out Pregnancy Center. The people we helped with our donations felt cared for and loved. During tours at open house, I help new families to get the most details about my school. I provide direct information on the benefits of my school and a Catholic education. I am respectful to students and staff and help others when they need it.

At home, I help around the house and I am responsible. It makes less work for my parents by doing chores and taking care of myself because we are very busy. I also influence others by being patient with my neighbor. Even though he is only five and has autism, I play with him and help to entertain him by playing basketball and jumping on the trampoline. I am accepting and open to others when I don't exclude people. I can get along with anyone, even if we have different interests or viewpoints.

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During sports and extracurricular activities, I keep a positive attitude no matter what the circumstances are. I always try my best to work as hard as I can in any group or individual activities. Last year, my softball season was less than satisfactory. We were a very young, inexperienced team. Our first game was rough and we lost by 16 runs in less than two innings. As the pitcher, I felt that I failed the team. However, I embraced the failure, and used it as a learning experience. As the oldest player on the team, I cheered on my teammates and encouraged them to keep working hard and improving. As the season continued we won a few games and I did my part to support my teammates and do my part as a pitcher and a leader.

I impact others in everyday situations. In my parish, I volunteer and help others. I help to lead and assist others at school, and I try my best to be helpful and kind to everyone. As Mother Teresa once said, "We cannot all do great things. But we can do small things with great love." As I move on to high school, I will continue to help others and have a positive impact on the people I meet.