

Jacob Roth
Blessed Sacrament School

My name is Jacob Roth. During my few years on this earth I have seen a lot, but not enough. There are many situations that I have yet to experience, although there is one that I tend to think of often. I was in second grade and just switched schools from Saint Agnes to Blessed Sacrament that year. On February 5 of 2004, I was hospitalized with Bacterial Tracheitis. This was where my trachea swelled with infection to such an extent that my airway was the size of the point of a pin. The next day I went into septic shock. My organs start failing, my blood pressure dropped dramatically, I was near death. At that time I had over ten medicines and a respirator hooked up to me. I spent a week in ICU. Many people say that it was a miracle that I was alive and I fully agree. God has blessed me with a second chance at life and I am giving it all back and I plan to continue my journey.

Just recently I established a blanket drive. My goal for this program was to collect as many blankets as possible through school. These blankets went to the homeless who find assistance at the Cold Shelter in Northern Kentucky. In total, I collected nearly sixty five blankets through the blanket drive. Word got out about the success of my blanket drive and I was asked to help the students of John G. Carlisle School. The school was in need of warm winter coats therefore, I immediately started asking for donations to help these children. Ten percent of John G. Carlisle enrollment is homeless. I have collected nearly 100 coats for donation to the inner city school. In addition to donating to the school, I was able to gather a few shirts and sweatshirts that I shared with the Cold Shelter of Covington. When I hear that these things are real and not just in movies, I notice just how fortunate I am to be alive, living with a loving family, and attend such a great school.

Jesus said to the Pharisees "...You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:39). If I was homeless I would love to have a blanket to sleep under at night. I would want nothing more than a new, warm coat. Of course, I have never been in that situation and it is difficult to be in a mind set of someone I am not.

I firmly believe that God put me on this earth for a reason. What that reason is, I have yet to discover. My parents believe that I was put on this earth to help those in need. Others think that I am to put a smile on people's faces. Some of my classmates and relatives have said that I should be a priest or a deacon. I may never know what God has in store for me.

At the end of seventh grade, I received the "Merit Award" for Christian leadership. Also, in the fourth grade I was the first to be awarded the Christian Student Award for helping others and always having a positive attitude. This award by the other students and is presented to a student who acts as Christ would. Currently, when I walk into a class room I say "Good morning" or "Good afternoon," and when I leave the room, I always wish the teacher a good day.

The past few years when I shovel my neighbor's driveway and sidewalk they have offered me money for the deed, but I always refuse because I am happy to help when I can.

I think that I set a good example and act like a Christian at home as well. I help my brother with homework when he needs it. I do chores around the house without being asked. Sometimes, I make breakfast before school if my mom is busy. I have also been helping my family put an addition onto our house.

As I said, I make a positive difference for others everyday and I will continue to do so. I try my very best to answer God's call in all that I do. As a kid I always dreamed of being a saint. It was like a goal I felt I had to reach. I believe that I am working my way to that goal not for publicity but for the sake of helping those in need. Thank You.