

# Sophie Meinhardt Memorial Scholarship 2013

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St. Jude

What have I done for someone that was perfectly free of personal gain? I'll be completely honest when I say that I couldn't think of anything else than what started a whole recent chain of selfless deeds. I had always very much struggled with selflessness before this event. The words of Fr. Eric burned inside my head week after week about topics of all sorts. He is the very reason I have discovered God in my life. I have never once felt God leave my side since. Although I had felt this feeling, I knew there was something missing in my religious life. It was a big gap as well. A calling, of sorts, from above. Then it was one autumn day, that I realized what this gap was...

It was a calling! I was not being an active Christian! As much as I hate to admit this, it was Fr. Eric who helped me realize this. But it didn't happen *nearly* as direct as I made it sound...

It was now 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Early on, I must add, too. There were sign up sheets to go downtown and volunteer at the Tender Mercies soup kitchen. I guess it's an annual thing for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders, but who's really to know? Anyway, remembering Fr. Eric's words (I had not yet discovered the meaning behind the gap) I said yes. It really was no big deal to me at the time. Go down, help a few complete shabby weirdoes and go home to worry about getting homework done like every other standard night. And that's the way it stayed until the day of the event.

Now let me tell you, it was really quite a sight to see there! Yes, I was right about the shabby part; most of them were wearing very dirty clothes and I'll even admit some had a light stench about them. But their appreciation for our serving them food was beyond words! I, along with my dad, was just out and out amazed at how grateful they were! And their internal similarities were quite something to behold as well. Yes, they were homeless and ruined of their lives through drugs and alcohol, but they were looking to improve of themselves as well! I had sensed something wrong in my life, and so did they! It was afterwards that my brain was going crazy trying to figure out what it was that was wrong in mine! Then I realized it, and like everything God does, it was so stupidly simple, I couldn't even put my finger on it for a while. *I needed to be more selfless!* Sure, I could understand and speak the word of God well, but acting it was a completely different matter! It was from that day forward, that I have pledged myself to looking out for even more ways to be as selfless as possible. And even right now, my dear reader, I am still thinking of and trying my best to carry out ways to help maybe even you someday...