

Katie Caskey – MYA LIFE Central  
LIFE Central 2014, Daniel J. Gross Catholic

My initial encounter with LIFE was in grade school through my brother David, when he was on the core team at Gross Catholic. I thought it was so cool that he got to go to Ohio for a retreat, have a huge pot luck every meeting, and make funny skits with his friends. I then further learned about LIFE through my sister Danielle when she was a freshman and I was an eighth grader, and through her I figured out what LIFE is really about. I would not have been able to explain it at the time, but I was intrigued by the focus the Marianists had on incorporating faith with community, that I knew I wanted to be involved in it too once I was in high school.

Throughout my freshman and sophomore year I attended most meetings, and then applied to be on the core team for my junior year. I was chosen to be a core member, and my sister Danielle was also chosen, so we both attended the same LIFE week in 2014. This was a unique and special experience for us both, because not only were we able to make great friendships with others on the trip, but we also got to see each other grow in faith as well.

Being only a year and a half apart in age, Danielle and I have always done a variety of activities together like sports, work, and sharing a car, but being a part of LIFE together has definitely been the most impactful. Beyond the retreat, we spent the next school year being on the same core team planning the meetings and helping each other whenever we needed it to make the meets as great as possible. We share the same memories but remember it in our own way so it's always fun to see how the same experience has impacted us in different ways. Overall, the LIFE program helped me share my faith with my peers, grow in my personal prayer relationship with the Lord, and understand the great impact community has on my religion, and I think my sister would agree LIFE has impacted her in a similar way.

Therefore, after high school, Danielle and I both decided to stay involved with the Marianists. This summer, we are both volunteering at different LIFE weeks to help high schoolers be impacted by the Marianists the way we were. The reason I chose to stay involved is partially due to how great of an effect the Marianists had on building my faith to what it is today, but another large reason is hearing about how much Danielle was able to grow in her faith by volunteering at LIFE week in previous summers. She gave me the outside perspective of volunteering at LIFE week, rather than attending it, and just like how she influenced me to join LIFE in the first place, her stories and passion for LIFE has led me to follow in her footsteps and volunteer myself.