

St. Joseph's Evangelization Committee wants to inspire and encourage each of us to ponder our faith journeys. How has God called us and been present in our lives? As we ponder this, we become more able to share the Good News of Jesus with others. So, we are starting by sharing with you the faith stories of our committee members.

STORY # 5

Sheila Marx, September 2020

Hello, my name is Sheila Marx and I have been asked by members of our Evangelization Committee to share my faith story for the people of St Joseph's. Thank you for this opportunity.

My family attended a small mission church in rural Montana where my future husband's family also attended. There was no formal Catholic school there, of course. Two weeks out of the summer, however, two nuns from Livingston would travel to our mission church to teach us Catechism. I have great memories of this, receiving sacraments and learning to be Catholic. I was given the gift of faith at a young age and was tested by non-Catholics that didn't understand what we were all about. This challenge, I believe, also had the result of making me more committed and determined in my Catholic faith. Also at a young age, due to a hospitalization of my father's, my eyes were opened to the vocation of nursing. From then on, I had in my mind that I would pursue a nursing career and perhaps become a wife and mother if the right person happened in my life.

I had the good fortune to go to high school in Livingston, away from the small community where I lived. Here I was better prepared in my education and with like minded friends. Upon graduation, I sought out a Catholic education in nursing, which brought me to Sacred Heart School of Nursing in Spokane along with three other classmates. It was an amazing gift for me as I became involved with other young Christians. I attended Mass, prayer meetings, retreats and spirit filled worship. It was a turning point in my life to allow Jesus through the Holy Spirit to work in my life.

My husband, Roger was another great gift in my life. Our families had been friends in our community in Montana. We had dated while I was in high school and while I was in nursing school. God had opened another door with this relationship. We got married a few months after I graduated from nursing school and we started a life together. For all the joys and trials that it might bring, we were in it together, sharing our faith together through the years.

Roger had pursued agriculture and graduated from MSU. He worked on farms and in agricultural businesses. Always wanting to be a farmer, he got an opportunity to be a dairy farmer. For 4 years we leased a dairy which became a very difficult and challenging time in our lives. Dairy farming is a 24/7/365 days a year enterprise and interest rates were in the double digits. It was a dream that wasn't to last after which, Roger sought a different career. He eventually went back to college and became an RN. He found a wonderful career in nursing and is now retired. After we left the dairy, I started working again at Sacred Heart in Maternal Child Nursing. I worked there for 34 years and had a truly blessed career. I cared for and interacted with many hundreds of individuals. I learned and received so much from my patients and my co-workers. My hope is that they also received blessings from me. We stayed committed and raised our three children in the Church. Unfortunately, we had a daughter pass away. This was and has been a most painful experience and cause for much prayer and faith in the Lord. Our other children and grandchildren have blessed us enormously and we are thankful for all of them..

Through our good times and times of loss, we have worked to stay close to our Father and seek answers and direction for lives through Jesus and his Holy Spirit. I pray that by my sharing my story, others will see God's goodness, mercy and promise of eternal life through His son Jesus. If those of you reading this and are so inspired, please feel free to share your faith journey with our community.