

My Walk with Christ

Growing up, I was raised by my father, and have always been thankful for that gift from my Heavenly Father. During that time I was always taught respect for others; my father modeled this very well for me. When I was 17 he passed away suddenly and I had to grow up.... one day. I started leaning on God at that time. My father and I had visited different churches from time to time, but we had never settled in one place. My older sister had visited the Catholic church with her friends and she invited me to go with them one time. I don't remember back that far what I felt from that experience, however, I kept going there after my father passed away. It was during the time when the church was changing and there were folk masses where I found many of my peers from school.

After High School I moved to Sacramento for 2 yrs and went to college, worked there a short time after school and then moved up to the Pacific Northwest. All this time I was still going to the Catholic Church, and during my time in California I didn't visit other churches. When I came up here I attended church until I got married. That was mistake #1.....he wasn't a friend of Jesus.

After our divorce, my girls and I returned to church and the girls were happy to be involved, one of them was an altar server. She would ride her bike to mass every morning in the summer (at the old building at the cemetery), she loved helping Fr. Heminway. This is when I began to lean on God more and more. I went to RCIA when Fr. Heminway came to our parish, and by the time we were through the 9 months of formation I knew that I was home in the Catholic Church. Also, this parish family had A LOT to do with that. Prior to that I had visited other denominations with friends but always felt something was missing. Not sure at that time what that missing thing was, I have since opened my eyes and heart to know that it is Jesus' real presence that I was missing.

I have been drawn closer and closer to Christ through the years with the help of many people. We are never THERE in our journey so I have been very grateful for all the opportunities to grow in my faith. The many retreats, classes and spiritual direction opportunities are priceless. I am thankful for all of the times when Christ has been present in my brothers and sisters whom I share this journey.

In the past few years, well really since Fr. Mike came, I have increased my ministries for Jesus and have needed help and guidance, knowing/feeling that I am being asked or as Fr. Mike would say....invited to a ministry I wasn't sure I was qualified for. One such ministry is 'No One Dies Alone', this is ministry where a team of folks sit and vigil with the dying when there are no family or friends nearby. This was a HUGE step for me but has become my favorite ministry. I have had so many amazing encounters with the Holy Spirit.....I am so happy that I listened to that little voice in my heart insisting that I at least go to the class and find out about this project for Jesus. I love doing Homebound ministry.....it makes my heart happy that our Lord's children want Him enough to ask. I also love Adoration ministry, again, many opportunities for encounter with Jesus.

A couple of years ago I became an associate to the Sisters of Holy Names. Just being with these women and helping them to serve the community has been another wonderful learning encounter with the Holy Spirit.