

My dear family of faith, I have been invited to share with you a little bit about my “faith journey”. I call this two-part *Spirit and Truth* reflection “Great Treasure”. Being a convert, I do have my own unique story – unfortunately, the initial part of my journey is too long to share here.

But in a nutshell, I was raised in a Protestant faith. Even as a teenager I knew in my heart there was something wrong. Why were there so many churches? I asked. Why did they all claim to be the “right” one and all the others were “wrong”? So began my long search for “Truth”.

I have to admit that I was greatly surprised—and even in awe—when I discovered that the Catholic Church was able to provide such beautiful and profound answers to all of my numerous questions (including many, many more which I never thought of asking on my own).

My soul did recognize the “truth” I was searching for. However, I soon realized that not all “truths” were easy. It took some time and prayer and the grace of the Holy Spirit’s “Gift of Understanding” for my mind to accept and embrace all of these “truths”.

It is sometimes a temptation to avoid the truth and plead ignorance. Some truths can be very difficult and also inconvenient. When we acknowledge the truth, however, we must accept the obligation to be “obedient” to it.

Shortly after finding this great treasure of the holy Catholic Church, Our Lord had another gift for me. And again, my soul recognized the “truth” first, but my “flesh” (practical intellect) didn’t fully understand—partly due to laziness and fears—and wanted to avoid it.

This gift was the spiritual formation program of “The Disciples of Jesus and Mary” (DJM’s). The DJM program has proven to be a very important and valuable blessing to me. It helped me to move on in my faith journey bringing harmony to my intellect and will and peace to my heart.

Beginning this week-end, we will be sharing some of the basic teachings of our program in our parish Sunday bulletin. It will be called the “DJM Corner”, and each article will run for a month’s time. Be sure to look for it.

Next week in *Spirit and Truth*, I will say more about how the Disciples of Jesus and Mary offer a meaningful spiritual program of faith development. And how you may travel a little farther and a little faster in your own faith journey with the help of the DJM’s.

Also next week after Mass, we will have a display table available in the vestibule. We encourage you to stop by and take a look at the books and manuals of our spiritual development program. We will be happy to visit and answer any questions you may have. In the peace and joy of Our Lord, Ellie Cosgrove.

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