



May 2021

Thank you to Ruth Feltz for sharing her story . . .

*No evil will happen to you,
nor will any plague come near your tent.
For He will give His angels orders concerning you,
to protect you in all your ways.
On their hands they will lift you up,
so that you do not strike your foot against a stone.*

Psalm 91:10-12



Can you recall when you felt unexpected help or comfort and you were not sure where it came from?

Ruth recently shared her experiences with us. Her experiences began at a very young age, and solidified her deep appreciation for angels. “I’ve always believed in angels” she said as she told of the numerous times in her life where she felt their grace and protection.

When she was two years old, she accidentally consumed a poisonous liquid. Her mother rushed her to Dr. Schmiesing’s home for immediate after-hours care. The doctor did what he could and assured her mother that if Ruth made it through the night, she would survive!

A few years later, she was helping her family to put up hay on their farm. She remembers walking up the elevator and falling from the loft and injuring her back. While she was lucky to survive the fall, she suffered injuries that would continue to affect her throughout her life. While in her forties, she was pitching in a softball game with a sudden move she experienced so much pain! Later after testing, Ruth learned that she had pinched nerves from her previous fall injury. There would be no more softball for Ruth, instead, she would focus on her healing. Eventually, in **2016**, Ruth’s doctor warned her that there was so much damage to her head, neck and back that she would need cervical fusion and injections.

Nonetheless, Ruth’s angels were still active, even when she was diagnosed with cancer right before Christmas. Her doctor recommended treatment begin immediately, but Ruth was determined to celebrate Christmas with her family, so she delayed the process until after the holidays. With a renewed, thankful heart, she underwent surgery to remove all of the cancer. It was successful and she credits that to the angels who have continued to bless her life. As Ruth was enduring her cancer journey, her husband was diagnosed and battled cancer as well, but her faith stayed strong! Ruth did not hesitate to ask for blessings from priests after mass. She is also thankful for her visits to the Relic Shrine to venerate St. Peregrine’s relic and ask for his intercession for their needs and healing. (over)

But a blessed life if not without trials, as Ruth was driving on a snowy winter day, someone pulled out in front of her. The front of Ruth's van stuck the other vehicle's passenger side . . . BOOM! Ruth's front air bags deployed hitting her! Then Ruth's van spun around and the other vehicle's passenger side hit Ruth's driver's side and . . . BOOM! More air bags deployed hitting Ruth from the side. During the accident, a strange sense of peace came over Ruth, she felt as if she was being held and protected. When everything finally came to a stop, she immediately felt immense back pain. She was taken to the hospital for treatment. While there, she requested that her family gather the contents from her car, especially the auto angel that meant so much to her.

Her family was able to locate the angel, but it was damaged. Amazingly, Ruth recovered from the accident and she was determined to replace her auto angel. Her first stop was the Pilgrim Gift Shop! Ruth has been coming to the Maria Stein Shrine since she was a child, with her Mom, who would share the lives of the saints with her family. Ruth carried out that tradition with her own family bringing them to the Shrine and to Saturday morning Mass. The Shrine has always been a "peaceful go to place" for Ruth's family and now she was calling on the Gift Shop to help replace the auto angel and give her "peace of mind".

The Gift Shop staff researched for two weeks to no avail . . . there are so many to choose from but this one could not be found? It just seemed so hard to believe! Then, just days later, another Gift Shop customer came to see if it was possible to return an item.

To everyone's shock, the item being returned was the exact same auto angel that had been searching for! (Shown right)

The angel still had the price tag attached and was in a Pilgrim Gift Shop bag along with the receipt from 2016!

Angels are among us and God provides; it's our job to have the faith to accept God's gifts with a thankful heart! Ruth is putting her thankful heart to work as she volunteers at the Shrine and also helps a group make doll clothes in the image of Blessed Virgin Mary's wardrobe. Thank you Ruth for accepting all of God's gifts with a thankful heart. You are a wonderful example and you make a difference!

Like Ruth, many of you support the Shrine as well. Thank you for sharing your time talent and treasure with the Shrine. We want to make sure you know that you make a difference too!


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