

My name is Rose. I grew up Catholic, got married in the Church, and worked until our kids were born. Life got busy with ups and downs. We did the parish shuffle, attended Mass, prayed before meals and took the kids to CCD. I thought I was living the Catholic life.

Things were good enough but the truth is I fell into a trap of superficial spirituality. In other words, the boxes were checked and things looked good on the outside but inside I felt lost, anxious, confused, angry, and alone in what faith I had (which truthfully didn't feel like much). I had questions that didn't seem to get answered and felt no connection to any parish let alone to God.

The questions I began asking myself were, "Is this all there is? Why am I even here? What do You want of me?" It was the first time I ever considered leaving the Catholic Church. So I prayed what I call my first real prayer because it came from such a deep place within me which was, "I don't know what I believe. I just know there is a Creator and I want to get to know You. I hope You want to get to know me. Help Me!"

That prayer along with many others led me to my first small group in a Non-denominational Church. We prayed, read Scripture and discussed life through the lens of our faith. I met amazing people all looking to deepen their relationship with Jesus. At times it was uncomfortable but the more I went the more my heart began to open.

I noticed a change in my thinking. I felt more at peace and supported in my journey to know the Lord. I fell in love with Jesus in the gospel of Mark (favorite Scripture is Mark 10:45). Ironically, it was at the Non-denominational Church that I became convicted that the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ was found in the Eucharist...which is here in the Catholic Church!

My family joined St. Patrick 5 years ago. I threw myself into life in our parish and trained as a Reach More Small Group Leader. I've led Reach More groups ever since and am growing as a faith formation leader. More importantly my relationship with Jesus continues to grow and was again tested in 2020. Praise God for His continued love and mercy as I was able to rely on the foundations of my faith and my relationship with Jesus to keep me filled with hope, trust and joy!

Today I am more comfortable sharing the joy of knowing God and want to frequent the Sacraments as much as I can. All these and more are a result of a deeper, personal connection with Jesus encouraged and fostered in our parish faith community.

If you ever asked yourself, "Is this all there is? Why am I here? Lord, what do You want of me?" I invite you to say a quick prayer...Help Me Lord. Now take a step in faith to do something like join a Reach More group, a faith formation opportunity or something else. God is working in each one of us. Let us be attentive to it!

If you want to talk or have any questions, I am an email away!

Blessings and peace,
Rose
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