

"GROW IN SPIRIT"

*Spirit Growth Ministry*

## **Parishioner Faith story**

"St. Christopher" - My Spiritual home forever - if the time ever comes that we move or move on—my heart will remain here forever!

I think back to who may have influenced my "active" faith journey. I know "Renew" was the beginning for me many years ago. For 2 years, we gathered together in homes in small faith groups with people I did not know - but grew to love. To be with people who actually talked about God and how He walked with them in their lives - and they talked about it freely - how liberating!! And how hard it was for me at that time, to open up and share like they did. It was a special time of growth for me.

Then the invitation came in a homily from Fr. Terry Johnson a few years later. He asked each person in the pew to think about someone you know - someone you felt had a gift to share with their parish. He then asked everyone to extend an invitation to that person - and, if you were the person that was asked, to think about it seriously. I was invited. My first reaction was, "me - no way". But I prayed, and ultimately decided to say yes to the call as lector/commentator - and now "proclaiming the word" is not just performing a service for the parish, but being involved in a ministry that I love. I pray that in listening to my voice, someone will "hear" His word or message through the scripture I proclaim.

Then, in 2001, Christ Renews His Parish came to our parish and it bolstered my spiritual life and involvement in this parish again. Since it's beginning here at St. Christopher, I marvel at the life-long friendships and relationships that have formed in my life and with so many all around me...and God is the center of it all. He has allowed many of us to reach out and share our faith and daily lives with other parishioners, and these bonds continue to grow every day. I personally cannot imagine my life without these wonderful men and women and all they have to give.

"Renew" was the beginning, and Christ "Renews" His Parish re-awakened a Spirit within me.

Participation in the Confirmation retreat process with the 8th grade students, and looking forward to some type of grief or bereavement program here in our parish are some of the things that I strive for personally. In the end, it is not me, but HE, who does these things - using me. I believe our gifts are given to us to use—for the betterment of others, ourselves and to bring others into His kingdom.

Eunice E. - Lector