

“GROW IN



“SPIRIT”

Spirit Growth Ministry

Parishioner Faith Story

When I first received the e-mail asking for us to share our reflections on discipleship my first thought was: I don't want to do this. I don't know what I am going to say and I don't write well. These were my excuses but I did not delete the e-mail. The e-mail stuck in my head all night. The next day I thought some more and it came to me: how ironic! This is all how it started.

Eight years ago I received my welcome letter for the new year of Religious Ed. I read the letter and in one of the paragraphs was a request for volunteers to be Catechists. I thought about it for a brief second and as most people do I said to myself someone else will do it. The next month the newsletter came and there it was again a plea for people to be Catechists. They were desperate. I thought about it again. My first excuse didn't work so I thought longer. I found two more excuses: was I even qualified to teach and what am I going to do with my younger children? I put the letter in the drawer, not in the garbage. The next few nights that letter kept popping into my head. I finally decided to call and see if they still needed help hoping in the back of my mind they would tell me someone else stepped up. That was not what happened. Linda Thompson requested to see me. My next day off from work I made arrangements to meet with Linda and we spoke for a long time. Then the question came, "What are your hesitations?" I explained I didn't know if I was qualified. Her response was "the Holy Spirit lead you here." I have two smaller children at home. That was not a problem since they had high school students for babysitting. I said I would prefer to work with younger children since that is where my comfort level is. After that Linda could see my fear and asked me if I would be willing to sub. (She knew she had me but she just wanted to reel me in slowly!) I agreed. Little did I know I would end up subbing quite a bit. I also ended up helping with retreats and 1st Communion.

After the first year was over Linda approached me and told me there was a 1st grade teaching position open. That is when I knew I was committed. This was the grade I wanted to teach. I found out I knew more about my faith than I realized and what a great role model to show my own children!

This past year was one of my eye-opening experiences. We were sitting in church for the Religious Ed. living Rosary and in the sanctuary were two of my former students. They were doing the readings and leading us in prayer. I couldn't believe how into it they were. The tears welled up in my eyes. I saw what I believed I helped encourage. The Holy Spirit once again was working through me. After church I approached both of them and told them how proud I was. They responded with smiles on their faces and told me "I bet you didn't think we could do this." You wouldn't believe that these children were in was one of my most trying classes. If this class would have been the first class I taught I don't know if I still would be teaching. They told me, "See, we did listen to what you had to say!" I told them to keep it up and that there is always something you can do in the church to stay active. Besides being a catechist I have also become a Eucharistic Minister and my oldest son is now a lector here at St Christopher.

What we choose to do is not always easy; how we choose to do it may not always be right, but when we follow in our faith the path always seems to lead us in the right direction. The Holy Spirit has shown me that I am capable and I made the right choice!

Lynn P.—Catechist, Eucharistic Minister