

My Journey Home to the Catholic Church

By a Recently Reconciled Roman Catholic

I left the Catholic Church for about fifteen years - the Church of my childhood, the Church of my mother, the Church of my grandmother. I left over a mixture of disagreement of church policy, and plain apathy. I don't remember a decisive moment when I came to the conclusion to leave. Rather, it was a gradual erosion over a period of several years. It was as if I simply let my faith slip from my grasp.

In the years I was away my life held many blessings, a wonderful marriage to a good woman and a precious child. For years my absence from church didn't seem to matter much. Then as I aged and some of life's setbacks and difficulties began to take their toll on my spirit, I began to feel an undeniable pull back to Catholicism. Not quickly yielding to this I would stifle the urges to return, telling myself it was weakness or that I could heal myself. But the call back continued, as did my increasingly negative outlook on life.

Once in a chance meeting I was given the business card of a church person. Looking at it later I thought that he might be the person to talk to about reconciling my differences with the church. Lacking the courage to act, I misplaced the card.

Years passed, in chance visits to churches for weddings or baptisms I would feel sadness over what I had lost. Listening to the radio one day on my way to work I heard a news report about the Catholic Jubilee Year. They were interviewing a bishop and he was calling wayward Catholics back to the church. His words had a deep impact on me - as if the message was specifically intended for me. My eyes filled with tears. I felt the need to act, but yet lacked the resolve.

Opening a book several weeks later, the long lost card reappeared. It was the business card of the church person I had met five years before. One apprehensive phone call began the process that has led me back to where I belong.

If you are in my former position as a disenfranchised Catholic I would encourage you to follow the urgings of your heart. Seek your own path back, and don't be afraid, once the need is felt the reunification is easy and fulfilling in a powerful way. Coming home is easy if you begin the journey. God will show the way.

If this is your story too, we'd like to welcome you home.

"Welcome Home to the Catholic Church" six week program begins Monday, January 4 at 7:00PM at the Parish Office, 222 Dodge Ave, Corning, NY.

For information: Call 936-4689, ext 14

OR

Visit our website www.allsaintsparish.org

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