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"Love without Limits"

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"Love without Limits"



Sara Guarnere

“Love without Limits”

“Love the Lord your God with your *whole* heart. This is the first and greatest Commandment. The second is like it; love your neighbor as yourself.” These two commandments Jesus gave us echo in my heart as I continue to discern and follow the path God has for me each day.

My years at Fisher were memorable ones: academically, spiritually, and socially. I remember Fr Joe waiting that extra couple minutes for me before starting weekday Mass, learning and having professors know my name at class, and making friends that have lasted to this day!

I graduated Fisher in May 2005 with a degree in business management and Spanish. Shortly after graduation, I accepted a purchasing coordinator position with Dr Pepper Snapple Group. I worked for them for four years during which time I was promoted to senior buyer responsible for \$57 million of ingredient purchases to support their brands such as Mott’s, Snapple, ReaLemon, ReaLime, Clamato, Hawaiian Punch, Rose’s, etc. My position as a buyer with a Fortune 100 company was intellectually very stimulating; I enjoyed learning the world of purchasing and being a rising star!

I was very comfortable with my life in Rochester, NY; I had a very good job, I ran a rosary ministry (that was actually born at Fisher!), was an active Catholic involved with my church, and enjoyed my social life

also. Over the years, however, as I prayed and gave my “Yes“ each day to the Lord, I had a deep conviction in my heart that God was calling me to something greater, a higher call. It’s not that what I was doing was wrong or bad but that God had something greater in store for me.

Meanwhile God was also working on the hearts of my immediate family members. My dad had planned to expand his business to Colorado for several years. Over the years however as my dad prayed, God showed him it was not to expand his business, but rather to do ministry work. God used his business expansion plans to get my parents to Colorado. With this in mind, my sisters had already moved to Colorado with their jobs and I knew at some point I wanted to join the family out west.

After much prayer and discernment, I became absolutely convinced that it was time for me to leave Rochester and move to Colorado. So I quit my job and moved to join the rest of my family in Colorado. When I submitted my resignation, many coworkers were surprised because I was advancing well in the company. All I can say is that, when God calls, I’ve learned it’s best to follow even though I may not understand everything at the time!

I moved to Colorado in July 2009 without a job lined up; I thought I would take some time off then get a job and do ministry work on the side. As it turned out I took some time off and God started putting ministry projects in my path and the path of my family. For instance, we did a rosary project providing 300 rosaries to one of the area Catholic schools to encourage the kids and families to pray together. The new bishop for the Pueblo diocese, which is the diocese we live in, was introduced shortly after our move. The previous bishop had been there 29 years; this is only the 4th Bishop of Pueblo! Our family did a prayer project to help support the new bishop by visiting parishes in the diocese asking them to pray for him in his new assignment and ordination as bishop, as well as for the diocese. I started up my rosary ministry here in Pueblo, Colorado with a project at our new church to make a rosary for each person there; with our goal at 800 rosaries, we have nearly reached it! We’ll be handing them out in October to

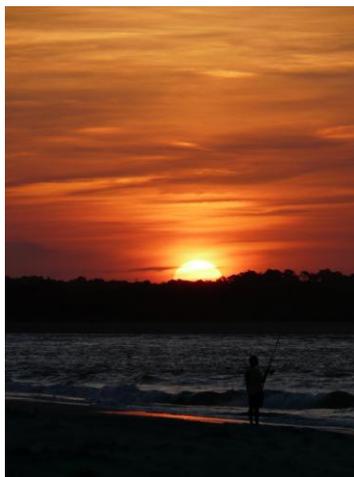
celebrate Mary's month of the rosary! My family was integral in helping launch perpetual adoration in the diocese of Pueblo in June 2010. This was our new bishop's first priority; this was the first time in 50+ years that a church in the diocese had perpetual adoration. My family was also instrumental in putting on a Catholic conference in our town in August 2010; we also spoke at the conference witnessing how God brought us here to Pueblo. The conference was the first of its kind in Pueblo in 20 years!

After doing several of these projects and continuing to pray and discern what Jesus has for me here in Pueblo, Colorado, He brought me to a fork in the road. I was praying one evening when Jesus gave me two choices: I could take the high road and work directly for Him OR I could take the middle road and get the job He had been showing me while doing ministry work on the side. Jesus would love me either way but He told me that He had obtained this grace for me from God the Father to work directly for Him! Wow, what a choice! I went to Adoration praying over this for three days and asking the Lord how He would cover all of my expenses and He just kept telling me to TRUST HIM that He would provide for ALL of my needs. After three days I told the Lord I would take the high road and work for Him directly! Thus, I continue with my rosary ministry, our family ministry projects and also introduced "youth nights" monthly for teens in the area. On the youth nights we invite teens over for the evening to pray the rosary, we do a little teaching, have food, fellowship and fun! If you'd like, you can follow our ministry here at www.guarnere.com or our blog site: <http://guarfam.blogspot.com/>

It's funny how hindsight can sometimes be 20/20. I don't regret my choice to move to Colorado for one minute. God used our career experiences, gifts, talents, and worked with the human side of each one of us, and over time, invited my family and me *not* to pursue our own goals rather to give our "Yes" to serve Him. With our "YES" God placed us in the diocese of Pueblo, Colorado to carry out His two greatest commandments: to love Him and love our neighbors! A diocese that in land area is the size of New York State, has approx 100,000 Catholics and only about 60 priests. It's very much mission territory and ripe for a spiritual renewal! It's very awesome to see God move here in our lives and among the people! A

special bonus is that in Pueblo, we get over 300 days of sunshine each year! Some of the locals were complaining of a long, hard winter this year, while we only received about 15 inches of snow the whole winter!!! Praise God for even blessing us with beautiful weather!

In summary, I conclude with a personal challenge for you! I challenge you to get down on your knees at church, in a chapel or a quiet spot in your room. Give your “Yes” to God in your heart. You may or may not be Catholic; you may or may not have been to church ever in your life, but God created you and He has a plan for you! After you do that once, start doing it each morning, “God, I give you my Yes.” Understand that my story is not so unlike yours. Six years ago I was a student at Fisher studying hard, enjoying college, and wondering what kind of job I would get after college. It’s through my “Yes” to God that He works through me. It’s not because I’m lucky. So I challenge you to give your “Yes” to God in your heart and watch Him transform your life! Even if you think everything is going well for you, or you’re just a student, give God your “Yes!” It may not be easy, but God will never disappoint! He will amaze and bless you more times than you can possibly imagine!



EAST END SUNSET

(Photo by Melissa Jados)