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## Our Path to God

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## Our Path to God

### Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"My name is Jody White. I believe in God. I always have, even though I was not baptized until I was an adult. I have vivid memories of the "Our Father" engraved on a silver charm and literally glued to my bed like a child's sticker. I thought it was so cool and important. I did not understand what it really meant at the time, but I remember always being proud that I "knew" the prayer."

*From our Guest Writer*



*Jodi White*

## **Our Path to God**

My name is Jody White. I believe in God. I always have, even though I was not baptized until I was an adult. I have vivid memories of the “Our Father” engraved on a silver charm and literally glued to my bed like a child’s sticker. I thought it was so cool and important. I did not understand what it really meant at the time, but I remember always being proud that I “knew” the prayer.

Around that same time I saw my sister read a little pocket bible from front to back. It took her a while too. Once she had finished, I thought...well, now I must be missing something, because she is really smart. Apparently, we only had one pocket bible.

When I became a teenager, I remember my oldest sister coming home with these books to become “Catholic.” I thought, “Wow, she gets to learn to become Catholic.” That shows you what I knew. Each of these moments kept building deep within in me. The seed had been planted.

After my oldest sister was baptized, I realized that my mother was Catholic as well, and I was in awe. How could I have missed it, she was silently leading us, even if we were not baptized as children.

Thinking back, that is when I started to feel that God must have been working to have me baptized. At the time I did not know what being “baptized” meant. I remember going to a non-denominational Sunday school and really enjoying it and as I recall it seemed like we went all the time but it may have only been a handful of times. Either way, my faith was always brewing. I am very fortunate to have been baptized, confirmed, and to have received The Eucharist all at the same time. What an amazing feeling to know and decide to make that choice. To this day, there is no greater feeling I have ever felt. I feel blessed to have felt an indescribable understanding of God, the Trinity, and Faith. It was immediately after baptism when I received the Eucharist. I cannot even describe the beauty in scents, silence, and peace that I felt. It was as if time stood still. I sat at the kneeler and closed my eyes. It was an ivory white peaceful feeling and the complete inner peace stayed with me for three days. (Ironic?) I remember driving to Boston afterwards and riding in the car, looking out the window, distracted by the peace I felt and the knowledge that it was like nothing I have ever felt. I was sad as it started to fade. But, the memory is still there. I know what it was like and I surely want to feel it again. I remember wanting to stay right there. I had no worries or doubts. I was willing to give up everything without thinking about it.

My name is Tom White. I am Jody’s husband. I don’t have an amazing story like Jody’s other than that I was blessed to be able to know her and marry her. She is as amazing as her story. I am a cradle Catholic. I’ve never known anything else. I was blessed with two loving and spiritual parents whose primary responsibility was and still is to get me and my eight siblings to heaven. I am also a product of parochial education through high school. Our family prayed the

rosary each night and at a relatively young age participated in the devotion of the Five First Saturdays.

Faith was everything to my parents and unlike Jody I never knew anything else. I also have never known the incredible feeling she had at her Initiation into the Faith. I, as I suspect many children growing up in devout catholic families, had doubts and often times felt it was not my choice at all to be Catholic or to have a Faith of my own. I was actually more interested in how to get out of prayers than really growing in the Faith. I was merely going through the motions out of respect to my parents whom I loved and respected very much.

It wasn't until I was in college where I felt a sense of my own want for Faith and a desire, albeit small, to take a more active role in its development. That desire was, I believe, the direct result of the seed of Faith planted and fertilized by my parents and developed through their prayers, teachings, love, and the Power of the Holy Spirit. But don't get me wrong, it wasn't like I was about to become St. Paul or anything. I just began to think about my Faith for me for the first time.

As I have gotten older, Faith and the Lord are more important to me, for me, and for my family. I am glad I am a cradle catholic and have been blessed to always believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I was always taught and now believe that Jesus is real and present in the Eucharist and although I know I am unworthy I believe in God's Divine Mercy and in salvation through His Son, Jesus.

I also believe in my heart that God sent my wife, Jody, to further help me on my walk in Faith. Her journey to the Faith and to God is vastly different than mine but her influence on me, as with that of my parents is equally powerful.

Now that we have three beautiful children (and one on the way) of our own we see God's blessings daily. We are constantly reminded of how important our faith is in every decision that we make. We have each arrived here taking different roads and we know our journey is not over. We also know there is a great deal of work ahead and we will need more devotion, prayers and dedication to God to arrive at our final destination. We will use family prayer, teachings, and actions to help our children know God, His love, mercy, and forgiveness as it is our turn to be the examples and to lead our children down the same beautiful path to God. Our hope for them and for each other is to someday feel the same beauty Jody felt in baptism in God's loving arms, in Heaven.



*Jodi and her family*