

Gary's Story

I was raised in a family that was very active in the Church of Christ. Throughout my childhood, I was schooled in the Bible, and how it was our authority and guide to life. After my Baptism at age 14, something began to bother me. I heard how everyone could read the Bible, and take it literally, but I began to see "holes" in this assertion. Nothing was more contradictory, than how this community, (and other protestant denominations) regarded the "Lord's Supper" as a mere symbol. In the Gospel of John, Jesus clearly states: "...for my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink..." and again, "Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you..." It became clear to me that this church which claimed to be following the Word of God, was not. Deep within my heart, I was called elsewhere. The Catholic Church and it's missionary work, had always intrigued me. In retrospect, this is extremely interesting, as I would only hear of the Church in negative terms, from the pulpit and my family. Finally at age 18, I felt that I needed to know more about Catholicism, so I went to a neutral source -- the encyclopedia. From that article, I was able to fill in some of the "holes" in my Christian Faith. (e.g. Where did the Bible come from; what happened from Apostolic times until now, etc.) I then phoned the local Catholic parish, St. John the Evangelist, and began dialogue with the Priest. That fall, I entered the RCIA, and on 07 April 1985, entered into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church at the Great Easter Vigil. That was 16 years ago, and my family to this day is very uncomfortable with me -- despite that fact my wife (also a convert) and I are raising two "Cradle Catholics". I am ashamed to say that my family refused to attend their baptisms. I firmly believe that there is a great need for Catholic witnessing, as there is much ignorance on the part of protestants, as to the Church. Who do they think gave them the Bible!