

Elizabeth L.'s Story

Where to begin? I was born in 1963, in what was then Communist Ukraine. I came to the States in 1979, have been living in Queens, New York ever since . Finished high school here , studied Drama at Queens College, worked as a prop mistress, a stage manager, a set designer off-off and off- Broadway . Financially and reputation-wise I was very successful, but spiritually I was bankrupt. I come from an inter-faith family , but my family was allowed to come here because it's half-Jewish , so I felt I owed my allegiance to the Jewish faith . The problem was - it left me totally empty . Don't misunderstand - I love the Jewish culture and the Jewish people, but religiously speaking my heart belonged someplace else . So, I 1982 I began to date one of my boyfriends who happened to be a Catholic. One day he invited me to come to church with him. At that point I didn't expect much, I was resigned to a life "with no God". I walk into the church and ... I feel like I've come home. There was this sense of people, of belonging that 's almost indescribable. Then a couple of times my boyfriend couldn't come to church so he would call me and say, "You don't have to come ". But I ended up coming anyway. It was to my total shock that I realized that my attraction to the Lord Jesus and the Church had NOTHING to do with my boyfriend! It had something to do with what was going on inside my soul. But I was still too scared of commitment to anybody or anything back then, so for the next sixteen years I would just come to church, pray to Jesus, talk to Mary and leave . Then , in 1997, something hapeened that made me reasses the entire situation. I enrolled in an RCIA class at our church, was baptized in 1999, and am now a lector, a eucharistic minister and a sacristan at our church. I am also a Catholic poet and a playwright who's head over heels in love with Jesus, Mary and the Catholic Church.