

“What Jesus means to me” *Bulletin* witness articles 2018



Holy Cross disciples ‘on the way’

Featured: Sara McMorrow – May 6, 2018

Jesus is my rock! Journeys throughout life bring beauty, truth, and many times loss and hardship. There is great comfort to have a friend who never leaves me even when I am troubled. I pray that those around me see and feel my connection to Our Lord for he is the way, the truth, and the light. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life. God loves each of us so very much and calls for us to walk with Him as disciples. I experience the love of Jesus when I am surrounded by people. As an adolescent, I was actively involved in youth groups and RENEW. I served in the Milwaukee soup kitchens and visited the Sisters of Notre Dame. I attended Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) in high school and continued to be part of the TEC community into my adult life. Making a CRHP and taking an active role in sharing my faith keeps me connected to people in my parish. Jesus has held my hand through it all and continues to walk with me daily. Why do I follow Jesus? I choose to follow Him. He gave his life so that we could have eternal life. I cannot even fathom a greater gift than this. *Sara*

Featured: John Proffitt – April 29, 2018

Laurel and I have lived here in Kaukauna a little over 10 years now, and Father Tom has been our only pastor. He performed our canonical marriage at a daily Mass – now that’s a memory! Laurel came from a Pentecostal Protestant background and I had been raised Catholic, but walked away after high school and wandered around somewhere between Protestant churches and outright hedonism. But when I started driving a semi, I started listening to two Catholic channels on Sirius Radio. And the truth of the Catholic faith hit me – well, maybe something softer than hit – it drew me back home.

For me, the beauty of our faith lies in its history. You cannot argue whether or not it is the first Christian Church, and the only one founded by Christ Himself, it is. It is the only Church that has seven sacraments. Of the seven, I love the Eucharist most, I think! It is our opportunity to not only remember the sacrifice of Jesus in restoring our relationship with God, but an opportunity to offer our own lives in service to God, to the Body of Christ and to the world. And in receiving communion, we get to take Christ with us when we go out into the world – how awesome is that?! *John*

Featured: Jean Beatty – April 22, 2018

I grew up in a Catholic family and learned prayers from them as well as in the Catholic grade school. Our faith was reflected to me by their lives of helping others and being faithful in their worship at Mass. My deepening of my love of Jesus kept growing as an adult, especially when I became a catechist and reading scripture, which whetted my appetite to learn more. Attending Bible studies, retreats, etc., all helped me grow to love Jesus in new ways. Now I pray to him in conversations daily, off and on. I keep learning how present He is in unexpected moments and reminding myself how much **He loves me** in spite of my goofs! I'm on my lifelong journey, and I can count on Him to stick with me unconditionally. That's really **Love!** *Jean*

Featured: Barb Hintz – April 15, 2018

WWJD - What would Jesus do? About 20 years ago, I was given a bracelet with this on it. I wore it as a reminder to be more like Jesus--or at least the person I've come to know as Jesus. So, how do I live my life like one who performs miracles and gathers people together to share about God's kingdom? Perhaps I needed to know Jesus better and develop a more personal relationship with him. By reflecting on the life of Jesus, I realized that he doesn't expect miracles from me. He wants me to share his love with all people. Visiting the sick or shut-ins may not heal them, but it may make their day more worthwhile. I can't multiply what I have, but I can share with those in need. Not being able to turn water into wine teaches me to be thankful for what I have. I may not be able to gather and preach to a large crowd of people, but maybe a kind word or gesture to someone in need can be just as effective as hearing the gospel. Life isn't always perfect or easy. We all have crosses to bear. Even Jesus questioned God about his cross but knew it was part of God's plan. We are part of God's plan. Are we living life in a way pleasing to God? Next time you are in a hard spot, just ask yourself "WWJD?" *Barb*

Featured: Tammy Eiting – April 8, 2018

When asked the question, "What has Jesus done in my life?" and then to answer in 200-300 words, I was at a loss for words (for those of you who know me well, you understand that this is very rare). So, after a few days of thought, all I can say is simply, He **SAVED** me. He saved me from self-destruction, self-pity, hatred, self-centeredness, bitterness, guilt and so much more. He filled my heart with gratitude, joy, fulfillment, contentment and love. Disclaimer: Not always, but when I lose focus, I always go back to Him and we straighten it out together. I have not always had this kind of relationship with God. Although we have always been friendly, we didn't become intimate until a few years ago. I was asked to join a Bible Study with some moms from Holy Cross School because our kids attended school together. I was always searching for something and tried many different bible studies, groups, meetings and nothing seemed to resonate so I prayed for something to come along to help me deepen my faith. This small group of ladies met weekly and explored the bible together. All of us were Catholic, but many of us were new to understanding scripture, reading the bible, understanding its application for today and then living it. Looking back, it was a very slow transformation for me. To use a biblical analogy: God planted a seed in me that day, and it continues to grow daily. For me, my connection with God is directly related to how I connect with others. I need people! I need other Christians and to belong and involve myself in activities that center around Jesus. I know this is different for everyone. So, to begin, you can start like I did and just ask our Father and I promise, He will answer! *Tammy*

Featured: Tom Van Heuklon – April 1, 2018 (Easter)

A few weeks ago I had the incredible opportunity to “live” a Cursillo, and for the first time in my life, truly understood what it means to **feel** the Love of Jesus. I have heard the teaching that we are all the Body of Christ, but I never fully appreciated what that really means. Through this wonderful experience, my eyes have been opened to the realization that each one of us has the opportunity to truly be a part of our Lord, Jesus Christ. And, once we recognize that, we are able to see Jesus everywhere. I saw the love of Jesus in all the people who made that Cursillo experience special, from my sponsor, to the speakers, to the people who set up, to those working the kitchen, and finally in all those who took time to pray for so many people that they have never even met. And since that Cursillo experience, I have seen the Love of Jesus in so many more people throughout our church and throughout our community. I am so grateful to be here, surrounded by so many incredible people. Finally, I am now seeing that to let Jesus live in each of us requires that we look at people through His eyes...through the eyes of Compassion and Mercy. As we arrive at the end of this Lenten season, Easter Sunday, may we all strive to see all God’s children through the eyes of Jesus, and let others see Jesus in each of us. *Tom*

Featured: Anonymous – March 25, 2018 (Palm Sunday)

What Jesus means to me:

Waking up in the morning to a beautiful sunrise.

Seeing a newborn fawn try to stand.

The fascination of a bee pollinating a bud.

The size and speed of a hummingbird.

The life cycle of a monarch butterfly.

The abundant harvest from a garden.

The birth of a child.

Having the opportunity to teach your child as much as you can to prepare them for life.

Watching your child ask for your help, knowing it is out of your hands.

Seeing your child recover and thrive after adversity.

Putting your wife's health in someone else's hands.

Having the opportunity to support the people you love.

Watching a sunset from your porch next to your wife.

For the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.

Amen.



Featured: Myron Geiser – March 18, 2018

In my early adult years, I always knew that Jesus was with me but I wasn’t always with him. I was sleepwalking through my faith; I really didn’t think about Jesus on a regular basis other than the hour in Mass every Sunday. That’s not to say I didn’t believe I was a strong Catholic. I attended Mass as I had done all of my life, but I had no passion for my faith. I was going through the motions. Then a family tragedy struck, and my world and faith were rocked. Being lazy in my faith was no longer an option. I would either get stronger in it and grow from this or get more distant and wonder why God let this happen. My wife and I realized that we needed to turn to our faith to move forward as Jesus would want us to. That changed everything. Jesus is no longer just a thought on Sunday mornings. I now try every day to follow his words and live my life as he wants me to. That has made life much more fulfilling and meaningful. I am confident as a child of Jesus, knowing that I have a relationship with him and that my life here has a purpose. *Myron*

Featured: Alice Janssen – March 11, 2018

To love someone, you have to get to know them. So to love Jesus, I found it took prayer, listening to His words and thoughts, which leads to action, to loving Him. He gives us so much more than is possible to give Him. His love is endless, and He is always with us. He lifts us up when we fall and carries us when we feel we can't go on. All we have to do is turn to Him. The key words are '**turn to Him.**' I count on Him and want Jesus to count on me. He is Love, He is Goodness, He is Trust. He is my all. I try to show Jesus my love for Him by loving others with His help and support. *Alice*

Featured: Diane Van Abel – March 4, 2018

When I think of Jesus in my life I think of two things, love and commitment. In trying to follow in Jesus' life I believe you need both, as one is not as strong without the other. Jesus, through his dying on the cross for each of us, demonstrated both of these qualities. He was all in, he didn't waiver, he didn't make any excuses...he took the responsibility he was given and humbly acted upon it. Not because it was about HIM, but rather because it was for US. Trying to live this example every day, to put away our desires, our needs, our pain and reach out to others with love, compassion and true commitment is what I believe Jesus is patiently nurturing me to do each day. I feel extremely blessed to be a Catholic in today's world...the challenges are great, no doubt, but the rewards that linger if we can keep this focus are endless. *Diane*

Featured: Clare Bowers – February 25, 2018

On a Monday afternoon, about three years ago, I was ACCIDENTALLY introduced to **Relevant Radio**. To this day, I am enriched by this mysterious accident. I had returned to my car after an errand. My car was definitely showing its 270,000-mile age, especially in the interior electrical system. A buzz accompanied almost all radio programming. As a result, the radio was always OFF...except on this afternoon. When I started the car, the radio also started, without the buzz! It was on a station that was new to me. The program host had me engaged with a segment of the "Big Book on the Coffee Table," the "Word of the Day" and a few answers to listener calls. On that 20-minute ride home, I thought about my Catholic faith. I focused on the word of Jesus and his love. The radio dial is still set at 1050 AM. Relevant Radio programming now guides my thoughts throughout the day as I sew, prepare dinner, or drive from here to there. The programming and topics vary throughout the day, and it always gives me something to think about. It directs my thoughts to Jesus and his gift. Sometimes I join in a prayer, sometimes I chuckle, sometimes I cry. As we journey through this Lenten season, I encourage you to change that radio dial. Give **Relevant Radio at 1050 AM** a try as you commute to/from work, prepare and share a meal or just unwind in an easy chair. *Clare*

Featured: Barb Elliott – February 18, 2018

I follow Jesus by attending daily Mass and trying to become the kind of person He wants me to be. Without Jesus, I can do nothing. I love Him because of all he has done and suffered for us so we can spend eternity with him. If we put too much importance on worldly things or people, they all pass away. I want a perfect, all-satisfying, never-ending happiness in the end, and that will be with our Lord and Savior. As long as I can remember, Jesus has always been a part of my life and I feel very fortunate to have had parents who introduced Him to me.