

A WARM WELCOME

Many years ago I was at a crossroad in my life. I lost confidence in the people of my church. My church for me, was always a place of safety, a refuge, a shelter from the storm, Holy Ground.

“The Lord is a stronghold in times of trouble.” Psalm 9:9

“One who trusts in the Lord is secure.” Proverbs 29:25

The tragedy, the sadness of my childhood overwhelmed me. I left my church to begin my search for a new home.

“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” Matthew 7:7

One day I was invited to a bible study in a home. I listened to the woman giving the study. I felt such a strong connection to her. All my emotions began flooding through my whole being.

“Cast all your anxiety on Him, for He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

Her gentle touch, her compassion, her love came shining through. I let down the walls I had built around me to protect myself. I remembered I am never alone. God’s presence is always within me ready to comfort me.

“Let me find refuge under the shelter of your wings.” Psalm 61:4

God brought her into my life. She helped me realize that God’s love assures me, regardless of the past, there is nothing that can keep me from a new beginning. She invited me to come to her church on Sunday—St. Michael and All Angels. I was standing at a crossroad and did not know which way to turn. I was experiencing such feelings of uneasiness but when we turned to God in prayer I found relief. I began to understand that each activity, like this bible study, leads me to my God appointed place, a place that is especially for me and that is charged with limitless possibilities.

“I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith.” Colossians 2:5

My faith in God assures me that there is always a way, for I know that within God, nothing is impossible. God is my help in every need. He uses and brings His people into your life in your time of need. Just as He did with her. She helped me to remember that together with God I can weather every storm. I know without a doubt that I have a refuge in God, a safe haven where I am protected and at peace. I rest in God’s infinite love.

"I will never leave you or forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

That Sunday I went to St. Michaels and All Angels. As I entered, I was greeted with a warm smile and a strong handshake and the words: WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS.

I sat in the pew and listened to the sermon. The message was about the prodigal son. I had heard that message so many times but today was different. My eyes were beginning to tear up. My heart was pounding. My whole being was beginning to tremble. God was telling me I was HOME. I found my home in St. Michael and All Angels.

My true security is the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit goes with me to all places at all times.

I was introduced to Father Barry after the service. He counseled me on several occasions. He helped me to realize with God's presence in my life, I am able to release the past rather than relive it. The past cannot control my life. Holding on to hurtful memories would take me down a road that leads to nowhere. Father Barry helped me know that it was a new day. A day in which I discard the baggage and limitations. I start anew with God. I can be open and receptive to all the blessings that God has to offer.

"Everything old has passed away, see, everything has become new!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

I found my shelter from the storm. I found my refuge. I found my home in St. Michael and All Angels. You may never know what kind of impression you make on a soul. God uses us in our ordinary lives. He asks us to:

"Greet each other with Christian love." 2 Corinthians 13:12

Thank you Abba, for placing that wonderful woman in the path of my journey.

Thank you Lord, for bringing your words of life through the moving sermon of Father Barry.

Thank you Holy Spirit, for opening my heart to hear the message you wanted me to hear. HOME! YOU ARE HOME!

Thank you Heavenly Father, for St. Michael and All Angels. MY HOME.

All the honour, glory and praise to you Jesus Christ Lord and Saviour.

Your sister in Christ,

Susan Curtin

