



MY STORY OF DISCIPLESHIP

by Olivia Dvorjak, Saint James Parishioner

When you enter into my classroom at school, my motto for my life is very apparent. Everywhere you look, there is a sign, bulletin board, or phrase that all carry the same slogan: Shine. When I was in college at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, I was a member of the household (Catholic sorority) "Stella Mariae" meaning "Mary Star of the Sea". We strive daily to be "ladies, lights, and warriors" in all that we do. One of my favorite lines from our covenant is *"Thus, Jesus' Heart shines as the Sun, while Mary's virtues, as the Moon, are the perfect reflection of her Son's Heart. So too, are we the little stars striving to shine as they do. As little lights of Jesus and Mary, we are to shine on until the Son comes again."* This phrase captures the essence of my life and what I strive to be for others.



Stewardship for me goes beyond just putting money in the collection basket or spending time at the church. For me, it is the way that I "shine" my faith and inspire others to do the same. For me, stewardship goes beyond the walls of the school and the church and is carried with me into the grocery store, restaurants, and other places I may go. God has given me many gifts that are meant to be used and shared with others. A steward to me is someone that can evangelize through their actions and connect, educate, and inspire others. In this way, we, as stewards, set our lives apart so that we will be used to bringing Christ's Light and Love into this world of darkness. We understand that a life through Christ is different than a life of this world's standards. In the Gospel of Matthew in Chapter 5, we are reminded not to hide our lights under bushel baskets, but to shine as our Heavenly Father does. To me, a steward takes off the bushel basket and shows everyone what it means to be a Catholic and a Christ follower. Jesus' heart is the source of our light, and from His enflamed Heart, He makes our hearts shine, shine with Love and Light. We are called to spread the Gospel and I believe that everything else extends from this way of life.

Olivia Dvorjak

This is my discipleship story. What is your story? We would love for you to share your stories with the parish. Please submit your discipleship stories to Jennifer Moran in the parish office. You may either email them to jmoran@stjames-etown.org or drop off in the office. By sharing your story, you are allowing us to share it broadly with our parish community. Thank you in advance for providing us all the inspiration we need to be better disciples each and every day.