

MY STORY OF DISCIPLESHIP

by Lorna Vertrees, Saint James Parishioner

For many years, I would come to Mass on Sunday and support St. James through my financial (treasure) stewardship. I felt I was doing my part within the parish. I did not grow up in the Etown area so I did not know many parishioners at St. James. Thus, I continued to sit in the pew and watch other parishioners give the parish their time and talent through various ministries (i.e., Eucharistic minister, lector, greeter, choir, etc). However, I always felt that there was something missing in my spiritual life. I was questioning myself as to whether I really belonged. I struggled with why I felt such an emptiness inside.

When St. James was starting the “Why Catholic” program approximately five years ago, in a homily, Father Chuck Walker urged all parishioners to sign up for the program. Father Chuck promised that if we did attend “Why Catholic”, we would not be sorry. For myself, it was a big step to participate but I did take that step and it changed and opened my life in so many, many positive ways! Father Chuck was correct – I have never been sorry!!

In “Why Catholic”, I began to grow spiritually, and met and became friends with parishioners that I only formerly knew by just seeing them at Mass on Sundays. Through these parishioners, I learned of the various ministries at St. James. I took my second step and volunteered my time and talent at the St. Vincent de Paul Society pantry/outreach office. I am currently the co-treasurer for St. Vincent de Paul Society and work face to face with those less fortunate. From there, I additionally became involved with the Catholic Women of St. James (CWOSJ) Wednesday morning bible study, and into other ministries such as the Stewardship Committee, Faith Formation Committee and parish office help.

I cannot express how deeply the giving of my time and talent in being a disciple of Christ has changed my whole self – spiritually, emotionally, and physically. I have found an inner peace and joy in helping others and in supporting my parish, St. James, through the sharing of my time and talent. I feel that the following quote from St. Pope John Paul II relates to my journey of discipleship: “Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

I have cast my net; won't you cast yours?

Lorna Vertrees



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.