

MY JOURNEY TO BE A CATHOLIC by Sharon Goh

As I recall, the events that led me to my Catholic faith started with God's calling & my intentions to seek Him. I am grateful to have found my FAITH and I am truly thankful for all blessings and grace that God has given me. The sense of gratitude towards Him is still so great that even now whenever I attend the weekly Mass, it still leaves me with teary eyes after each session.

In quietness with Him, He is always ready to listen and offer comfort no matter how weary and tired I may feel at times. Praise His name! I am finally baptised this year Easter and it feels so good to be in union with Him by receiving the Eucharist - Christ's own body and blood. However, though after baptism, I know I am still far from being perfect .



To begin with, I came from a non-Christian background (my parents are Taoists) except that I studied in a mission school during my secondary days. In school, attending Mass and singing hymns were part of school days. It still leaves me with fond memories. But I must say that my desire to seek God didn't start there.

There weren't many changes in me till my beloved dad departed when I was 23. From then, there were changes in my family for we had lost someone dear and one who had been the main pillar of the family. It was difficult initially especially when we had to affirm our mother as it had hit her quite badly. But somehow we managed, and soon accepted the reality. But, as time passed, I felt that the family was not as close as before as my brothers and I were busy earning money and leading our own lives. In addition, due to the stress of work, we hardly communicated. We will often have quarrels here and there, and I felt that the home was not so peaceful then.

During that period, I had Christian & Catholic friends around me who asked me to join their church for events and Mass. I usually went along as I wanted to find out more. I was comfortable with the Catholics for they respected my free will, and they gave me time to explore the faith. In fact for the past 2 years before I joined the RCIA course, I have been attending BSC Christmas celebrations.

I couldn't recall when I started doing my own prayers at home every night searching for some answers... like are you my real God? I also asked him to show me directions, peace in the family, work & in relationships. And He really answers!! Not for all, but I felt Him and His love and presence. Things gradually improved back home, and we started to have mutual understanding of one another. I guessed through God's teaching, we also learn the wisdom of life, to be tolerant and to love one another like the way He loved us. I sensed a change in myself too. My trust in Him has grown deeper.

I remembered not long ago, I stepped into a Christian bookshop to get a bible and started reading. I wanted to understand Him better. The yearning to know him was very strong. Several occasions, in work when people disappoint or unjust reigns, my prayers to the Lord never go unanswered. He never lets you down and I felt Him with me and somehow things will turn to light. To me, He is a fair and just God as long as we do not stray in wrongs and we are answerable to Him.

I joined the Alpha 11 course when my good friend encouraged me to find out more from a relaxed environment. I learnt more about God and made many nice church friends. It was a great experience especially during the Holy weekend when I experience something which I thought never would happen to me... I could feel the Holy Spirit working within me. I was moving front and back according to my friends and I could see white lights flashing in my mind and my eyes are twitching beyond my control. I couldn't believe what I was experiencing but I couldn't deny what I felt. But gladness and comfort was what I received at the end. I felt so good to have to receive the Holy Spirit for not everyone can feel it.

So from Alpha, I proceed on to RCIA which took a year to complete. RCIA is a more comprehensive and detailed teaching by the priests and speakers on learning how to be a Catholic. Through the course, it was a great joy seeking God and knowing the friendly priests and a group of warm, fun church people. Everyone is just so nice and down-to-earth. On the day of baptism, that was the best day of my life ever!! It was amazingly magical to receive Him wholeheartedly and to pronounce that I shall follow His ways.

I was glad that my mother did not disapprove of my new faith and I believe this is by the work of God. I hoped to spread the Good News to everyone with this sharing and always praying that my loved ones will one day turn to Him too. Seek and you shall find, and for those who has yet to discover this Loving God, when the calling knocks on you, do not close the door. Even though you may face trials of life like how Christ had suffered and carried the cross, do not be disheartened. Trust God for He will ride you on stormy waves and mould you to be a stronger person.

Give thanks.