



The following testimony comes from a mother and daughter (Edith and Maria Difato) who are members of the Potomac Community.

The Jesus of Nazareth whom I met five years ago is truly a God who continues performing miracles today, as yesterday and tomorrow. I know - for He hasn't stopped for a moment. Your experiences must be pretty much like mine - conversion, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, gifts of the Spirit, inner peace, joy, new vitality in devotions to the Eucharist, love of the Scripture, a power to witness with conviction and the greatest of all, a Covenant Community and I could go on and on but when I asked my Friend, Jesus, what He would have me say to all of you, I think He would have me share the vision he gave me from the very beginning of my life in the Spirit.

His first command was to love His Church - Spirit, Body, Brick and mortar. The Baptism in the Spirit was not for me alone but to help Christ renew His Church. Immediately I was asked to serve on Parish Council, teach CCD and I joined the altar society just so I could have the privilege of cleaning His House.

Christ's second command was that I cooperate with His plan for a charismatically renewed family. When I asked Him "How", He led me to consecrate to Him my life, my husband, Michael, and each of my

five children, Maria, Joey, Mike, Jack and Lynn. I repeated this act of consecration daily until the day Jesus gave me a complete sense of trust that each member of my family would receive the fullness of His Spirit. I began to pray with each of the children when a situation allowed. We had never done this before. I shared freely with my husband all that Jesus was doing in our life. This kind of sharing led to Michael's trusting the guidance of the Lord in family relationships and business transactions.

There are a few things I would like to share as a forty-six year old mother. Remain in the state in which you are called (1 Cor 7:17). This could be said to be also true for pastors and parishes, rectors and seminaries, religious and their communities, etc. People are attributing to the Holy Spirit the sometimes post-Baptism urge to flee their responsibilities and head for greener pastures where their gifts will be appreciated. Some are even quoting the words of Jesus, that a prophet is without honor in his own country, as the basis for their escapism. Sometimes its harder to share the gospel message with those closest to us but Our Lord never promised it would be easy and the real witness to life in the Spirit is fidelity to one's duties of state.

Now I would like to share with you the witness

(YOUR WORD CONT.)

We must strive to be faithful to Him, knowing that He is faithful to us as we grow toward that which is promised. His name is God-with-us. His home is among men; His Kingdom is coming.

-- George Martin

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of my daughter, Maria, which is a testimony of how Jesus keeps His promises.

-- Edith Difato  
Potomac Community

As I pray and write this witness for the honor and glory of Jesus, it is my 22nd birthday, the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As I attended the Liturgy this morning, I was reminded during the homily that this very day, some 1900 years ago, was the beginning of our Redemption - the conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit. I was also reminded of all of the years I refused to claim the promises of Jesus as my personal Savior, but more than this, I was reminded of the day-to-day healing and love that the Lord has bestowed upon me during these last two years of my life.

For years prior to this time, especially during my last years of High School, and my first years of college, in my pursuit of spiritual fulfillment, I began totally intellectualizing God and my relation to the Church, and found them both to be quite irrelevant to my state in life. I was reading all available books about God and Eastern Mysticism, and came to know all about this "Cosmic God", but felt it was im-

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MY SOUL (cont.)

possible to personally know and really feel a God within myself, or One who really loved me. At this time, I was also heavily into drugs, and becoming more and more insecure about life in general.

But somehow the Lord was already working in my life, and showing me only He could change lives. This became evident as I observed my mom's life change from one of "getting through another day", to one of complete joy and real inner peace. She would even wake us up each morning smiling and singing as she cooked breakfast, instead of hasseling, and I began to realize there must be something to this Jesus she talks to. I also remember us turning to the Lord in prayer as I studied for finals many nights, and somehow this time of study became very fruitful, not only as far as grades were concerned, but I learned that Jesus listens even to trivial matters such as these.

About this time, I was intrigued to find that a "modern mystic", Dr. Frank Laubach, was visiting our home for a short time. I felt the Lord had truly led Dr. Frank to me because, during our growing friendship, Dr. Frank prophesied to me in a normal conversation that within six months I would turn either completely for or completely against Jesus Christ. After my reply of "who knows", I quickly dismissed this thought from my mind. But the Lord knew because exactly six months later I had a true conversion to Him. Briefly, the Lord showed me how truly great His love for me was, and that only my creator could fulfill each and every need in my life if I would but ask Him to live completely in my heart. At that very

moment, the real beginnings of a life of peace and fulfillment began to be manifest in my heart for the first time. As I shared this with my mom, we cried, thanked the Lord and opened the Scriptures to John's Gospel and the promise of Living Water which will turn into a spring inside, welling up into eternal life. My conversion had happened at the ocean only a day before. I knew I wanted this spring to well up in me, but also knew I couldn't live on my experience alone.

In my pursuit of spiritual renewal, the Lord led me to the Potomac Prayer Meeting through my mom, and shortly thereafter I was prayed over for the fullness of the same Spirit which I had received at my Baptism. In humor mixed with seriousness, Jesus showed me also that in order for this Spring to truly well-up (and it had really been dried up for 19 years), I needed to know daily, in a fuller way, what He was asking of me, and that only by spending a regular time in daily prayer would I come to know this same Lord whom I had accepted into my life. As I prayed one day before the Blessed Sacrament in my parish, Our Lady of Mercy, Jesus showed me that He desired a charismatically renewed Church, but more than that, He wanted my parish to be a "Glowing Altar" - a charismatically renewed parish where whole families would praise and honor Him through a revived faith. He also said this couldn't be done overnight, and that He would instrumentally use His charismatic community in Potomac to aid His work of renewal, but that I must begin to work within the structure of the parish, and to trust the charisms of my pastor and priests.

I would truly like to praise and thank the Lord as He has been especially blessing mom and me over the past two years, not only as a mother and daughter, but as true sisters in Christ through our day to day prayer and seemingly endless hours of sharing our new lives in Jesus. I would also like to praise Him for giving us the opportunity to witness in many of the area parochial schools, as a mother-daughter team, to the living reality of Jesus Christ, and for the transformation which has been taking place daily within my own family as the Lord draws us into a deeper and closer unity within this primary community which He has blessed so beautifully.

-- Maria Difato  
Potomac Community

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This year's National Conference of the Charismatic Renewal will once again be held in South Bend, Indiana. The dates for the conference are June 18, 19, 20. For registration information write: Registration P.O. Box 12, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556. For accomodations information write: Rooms, P.O. Box 12, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556.