

My Journey of Baptism

Sharing by a new parishioner

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Attending the Western Canada Chinese Catholic Living Camp (加西營) in summer 2013 is one of the most unforgettable life events that have become a turning point in my life since it is then that I received my very first calling from God.

I was brought up in a Catholic elementary and a Christian high school and studied religion as part of the school curriculum for eight years; however, I had never once felt such a strong connection with God and found such a strong relief from Him until I attended the camp last summer.

I think what triggered the surge of such strong feelings is the presence of God when I was most mentally exhausted and I needed someone to lean on the most. During praise and worship, I opened my heart to God completely and allowed God to walk in. I heard a voice which said to me not to be afraid and I'm with you and

then I followed the voice. At once, I felt belonged to this big family.

It is not without barriers that impeded me to reach forward to God. Although I received my first calling from God at the camp, I did hesitate after the camp about

whether I should keep pursuing Him and join the Catholic community.

Hesitation arises from the fact that none of my family members has a Catholic background and that it requires one to have strong determination and

faithfulness to pursue God. Surprisingly, I received support from my family. They were glad that I finally find a place where I could lay down my stress and pessimism in and a place where I could find relief. With my family and friends' support, I decided to attend RCIA classes at Canadian Martyrs Catholic Church to untangle all the doubts and uncertainty I have about God.



I look forward to going to classes every week despite of the tiredness after school and work because I find a sense of peace every time I go to church. Being in church calms my mind down and it is a decent place for me to quiet down and put aside all the stress and difficulties I have been facing in life. I used to be a very pessimistic person. I always complained about the bad things that happened in my life and I disliked myself very much for what I did wrong. However, throughout the course of RCIA classes, I gradually begin to alter the way I see things in the world. I begin to appreciate both bad and good things that happen in life and I begin to believe that I will eventually be able to break through the barriers with God's companion.

I was really excited about getting baptized because I look forward to getting an eternal life and to being a newly born and clean person once again. When baptism was getting close, I was still exerting a burden on myself for I have done wrong. I wasn't willing to put the burden down fully until the day of baptism, especially the moment when the priest poured the holy water on my forehead which symbolizes the cleansing of my sins. It was so real and convincing that I am a pure and

sinless person once again after going through all the ceremonies of baptism.

I also felt so real that I am finally a Catholic and become one of God's children. Ever since I was baptized, I have felt that I am taking a larger responsibility to commit to all of God's lessons, words and commandments. I believe that being a good Catholic can also show my friends and family how God has made me a better person.

I am happy that I am a Catholic and I would like to give special thanks to Stephy, a close Catholic friend of mine, for bringing me to the Ga Sai camp and Ada, my godmother, for being my role model and walk through the journey with me. I am thankful to God for bringing them close to me as a bridge to reach Him and for making them now an important part of my life.

