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Sera Family Faith Journey

By Lee Sera

First we would like to take a moment to thank Fr. Eric for giving us this wonderful opportunity to share our faith journey with the St. Patrick greater community. It is truly an honor and privilege to call St. Patrick Catholic Community our home.

Our journey began August 29, 1988, at Loyola College in Maryland. It was our first evening of graduate school. I clearly remember returning home that evening to inform my two sisters about this guy named Juan Sera, aka Jack, a Chemical Engineer from Johns Hopkins. One year later to the day, we went on our first date during which Jack's car was totaled on our way to see "When Harry Met Sally." After dealing with the paperwork, Jack turned to

me and said "Hey, I think we can still catch the movie." All I could think was "who is this guy?"

We finished our M.B.A.s, got engaged, and were married in Loyola's Chapel on September 12, 1992. Now on the cusp of 20 years, where has the time gone?

We lived the fun-filled young married couple life in Charm City (Baltimore). We enjoyed walking to local restaurants and Oriole Park. We had great jobs, hung out with countless friends, and had no cares.

In 1995, my twin sister, Lynn, began looking into the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) process. She made a commitment when she married to raise her children in the Catholic faith. When Lynn



**Lee and Jack
Sera**

became pregnant, she asked me to be the baby's Godmother. I took the honor very seriously and started questioning the meaning of everything. My family was Episcopalian and did not consistently go to church. Jack was raised Catholic and attended 12 years of Catholic School. As a couple, we did not attend church beyond our Pre-Cana requirement and being attendants in many friends' weddings. No longer was my salary, having fun or traveling enough for me as a

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Jack, Lee and their girls are very active in the parish community. Jack is one of the original core members of our EDGE program, which started in the Fenlon Hospitality Center and is now in hundreds of parishes across the country and the world. Even though Jack has not had his own children in the EDGE for very

many years, he has given his time to many middle school youth. I always tease him that he and Captain Light (an EDGE character who teaches the youth) are never in the room at the same time. Lee has shared her gifts through several parish ministries. Their children also have a spirit of service and

giving. The Sera family provides us all with an excellent example of giving, not just for their own children, but for many in the parish and beyond.

Peace in Christ,

Fr. Eric Tellez



Anna and Isabel

“... Our family’s goal is to remind each other daily to spread the Light of Christ to others.”

nagging feeling grew within.

I found myself attending noon Mass at Loyola College. One day, I went downstairs to the College Rectory to inquire as to how one would join the Church. I had the good fortune to meet Fr. Robert Judge, Loyola’s College Chaplain. He told me I would need a sponsor, someone who could “show me the ropes” of the Catholic faith, someone to accompany me on my journey. I figured that would be easy. I would just ask Jack. What is the old adage? One learns best by teaching. What an amazing journey it became for **both** of us. Jack learned more about his faith in that one year than in all 12 years of Catholic school!

Of all the lessons Fr. Judge imparted, one remains at the forefront: “Good Liturgy Builds Faith.” He communicated to us that he was walking this journey with us so we would go out into the world, find a great community, get involved, and become **active** members.

The Easter of 1997, I received my First Communion and Confirmation sacraments. During our RCIA journey, we decided we no longer wanted to be born, raised, and die in Baltimore so we packed our bags and headed west.

Shortly after arriving, I overheard a co-worker sharing his current RCIA journey experience. I mentioned I had just completed RCIA and was

searching for a good Catholic community. He invited us to come to the Sunday Teen Liturgy. As we walked on to the campus and headed into Fenlon Hospitality Center, to our amazement the words “Good Liturgy Builds Faith” were hanging on a banner above the entrance way. Signs are everywhere; we simply need to notice them. We knew we had



found our home. Hearing Fr. Judge’s words resonate, we found ourselves at the Fall Ministry Fair sorting through numerous volunteer options. We began with lectoring because I wanted to challenge myself to stand up before the parish and proclaim the Word of God. Soon after, we became Eucharistic Ministers. The Rock (now known as The EDGE) came next where Jack is earning his 14th

year service badge (ha, ha). Good thing our girls came along. We have helped with Life Teen, Vacation Bible School, and High School Confirmation. We have grown through my Ministry of Moms Sharing, which is now known as Journey, and Jack’s Men’s Prayer Group.

Our daughters, Anna (12) and Isabel (10) were baptized at St. Patrick by Deacon Jim Buchanan. They have grown into faith-filled young ladies having experienced the wonderful Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program, CLOW, Stepping Stones, VBS, and now finally the EDGE. They give of their time and talent as Lectors, Altar Servers, Children’s Choir members and this year both will be VBS Crew Leaders.

As we continue this journey, our family’s goal is to remind each other daily to spread the Light (did somebody say Captain?) of Christ to others. Whether it’s a smile or friendly greeting, no acknowledgement of Christ is too small.



Isabel & Anna

If you would like to receive more information on the ministries the Sera Family is involved with, here are some those contacts:

Eucharistic Minister
Gary Gwozdik
480347-5545

EDGE Ministry
Natalie McClure
480-998-3843x214

Life Teen Ministry
Scott Bagshaw
480-998-3843x206

Youth Ministry
Gerri Porteous
480-998-3843x210

Children’s Choir
Paul Hillebrand—480-998-3843x212

Ministers of the Word
Kay Van Dyke—602-661-9622

