

SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF NANCY MARIE TANGUAY NADEAU

I was brought up Catholic and went to Catholic Grammar School. My parents went to Mass weekly so I was brought up in what could be considered a traditional Catholic home. I married a Catholic and we went to Mass weekly. I say that we were “Catholics in a box” because we did what was “required” to be considered “good” Catholics but had no clue of the beauty of our faith if we only opened the box.

God took care of that for us....I was caught up in the material world of a fast track career, Mercedes sports car, two homes, and being defined by my title of CEO of a \$12 million dollar business. I thought I was a “good” person, but my worth was defined by how many expensive “toys” I had. Then one day, I found out I had been defrauded by a partner and lost my business in 1993....I had no clue of who I was any more. I was one of those people who were in danger of “gaining the world but losing her soul.” Luckily my parents had a strong devotion to Mary so I began going to daily Mass and praying to Mary to help me. It seemed that my career went nowhere and I no longer knew the purpose of my life, but she heard me and “invited” us to Lourdes in 1995 and then to Medjugorje in March of 1996 where she could continue my spiritual “overhaul.”

I’ll never forget the screaming argument my husband and I had at 11pm in the street in Medjugorje because he said “he didn’t know who his wife was anymore”...he was right, because I didn’t know who I was anymore, but God had started “working on me”....

When I returned from Medjugorje, I felt that Mary wanted me to write a children’s book on Medjugorje (which I did) and to start a publishing company named Joachim Publishing to give honor to her father (which I now have). I thought that was all she wanted. I also started a weekly prayer group at our church.

I continued to get inspirations to write, so I kept writing even though the reflections sat in my draw. Through connections only God can arrange, I met a priest in Florida, Fr. Mike Adams, who then co-wrote two children’s books on Jesus and Mary with me which were published. I also co-wrote a children’s book on Sr. Faustina with a different priest, Fr. Steve Marcoux. I also started a series of books called “The Practical Guide to God” of which 7 are now in print.

I was encouraged by a few priests to continue writing and wrote a powerful pro-life poem which I had the honor of reading to the bishop who said it was beautiful....that was in April 1999. Two priests told me to write more and there are now 52 pro-life poems in a Celebration of Life poetry book.

In June 2000 I woke up with a song in my head....I sang it to my husband as he came out of the shower and he said it was really good...I then sang it for a priest with a beautiful voice who said he’d sing it with me....but we needed accompaniment. I called several

musicians and no one called back. One day I was dusting my piano and started tinkering with the keys....my husband said...hey, that's your song you've been singing...I only had a year and a half of piano lessons, but bought a keyboard and with a LOT of help from the Holy Spirit, I recorded the song. Fr. Daniel Sinibaldi and I performed at the Women Affirming Life breakfast where we got a standing ovation. Everyone said "you need to record that song" which we did with another 9 songs God gave me.

The Holy Spirit then gave me an additional 10 songs in tribute to Him and we recorded our second CD called Fire Within at the end of 2000. Then someone suggested I get to know a Fr. Michael Barrett, a professional musician as I stood in line at Dunkin Donuts. He listened to my music and said it was good enough to "go to the next level." He played 2 songs on my CD and I have 9 songs that I wrote on it. The CD is called "Heaven's Touch." I ended up working with Harry King a professional arranger who had done work for Englebert Humperdink and Aerosmith and has produced gold albums!!!! All this from what God put in my head!!! When our Pastor, Fr. Moe Lavigne heard the CD, he said "we have to do the first concert here" which we did.

I also had the pleasure of performing my music for Fr. Slatko Sudac's (the healing stigmatist) retreat in CT and also for Fr. Tom DiLorenzo. As a result, the priest in charge of My Father's House retreat center in CT, Fr. Bill McCarthy, said to me "you did all this"...."you're incredible"...."you have to do a retreat here!"....so that's how I started doing retreats....he said "you have to call it Nancy Marie Tanguay Nadeau presents The Practical Guide to God" which I did . Also now I'm going to be on Fr. DiLorenzo's radio program in September too!

To continue the conversion story, though, it took until 1997 for my career to get going again. My career was bumpy in that in one case the President who hired me left the company a month after he hired me...then he recruited me at his new company and he sold it, etc. etc. Finally I ended up going back to work as the Chief Operating Officer of an internet company. I was recruited by my former partner in March 2000. We were backed by Venture Capitalists, so it was a tough job. However, I continued to go to daily Mass, and kept my eyes on God....then in April 2001 I lost my job!!!! Out of the blue....it was SOOOOO HARD....I thought, God...You pruned me big time in 1993 and I deserved it, but I'm writing like you wanted, going to Mass everyday, etc. etc....I don't get it.....

I eventually came to realize that although I was bearing fruit, He wanted me to bear MORE fruit. He also gifted me with the lyrics to 10 songs that will be on a CD entitled From Storm to Glory. The songs follow my journey from "I can no longer go on...help me Jesus, help....to realizing that He was by my side all the time...I am free, free of all worries and cares, for You have taken the weight of my cross away...I am going into the recording studio this September to get this done!! I am sure this CD will help many people successfully journey through times of trial...

In 2000, God sent me a Christian advisor (Jack Hartman from Lamplight Ministries) from Florida (another unlikely meeting?!?!?) who said "I think God will send you a job for 20-25 hours per week that you'll love." I remember thinking, how can I find a professional level job that's part time....well guess what...there was an ad in the paper for a part-time Executive Director for a start-up non-profit and I work 20-25 hours per week from home!?!?! This allows me to spend more time to do God's work. I also formed a 501(c) (3) called Gems of God, Inc. to serve God and help people. My husband and I have personally funded the production of the books and music to help "get it off the ground"...I'm hopeful that once people read my books and listen to the lyrics God has graced me with they will be touched and their hearts healed.

Another test along the way of my conversion came in December 2001. I have been trying very hard to live united to God's will. In December 2001, at the ripe old age of 49 my husband had a heart attack and 6 bypasses! He went back into surgery in the middle of the night and I didn't know if I'd lose him after 24 years of marriage. Saying you want God's will when it might mean losing the one you love is a VERY tough test.....

I'm pleased to say that it has a happy ending in that my husband is good as new...

This past May I also recorded 25 of my pro-life poems on a CD to accompaniment by Fr. Michael Barrett. The Bishop actually funded a part of this project!

The Christian advisor who told me about the part-time job also got me into studying the Word of God. Now I couldn't imagine a day without reading His word! I also continue to go to daily Mass, listen to teaching tapes and write daily as God inspires me.....

The joy I now have is from the inside from a deep personal relationship with Jesus. No material toy can ever compare.....

Nancy T. Nadeau
40 Fielding Way
Rye, NH 03870
Tel: 603-964-1832
Fax: 603-964-7568
nnadeau@rcn.com
www.gemsofgod.com