

My Journey of Being Saved

When I was born, I was baptised as a Catholic at St. Patrick's Parish Church in Cobalt, Ontario. As I grew up my mom raised me as a Catholic, and we attended St. Pat's when we could but when I started school at St. Patrick's School in Cobalt I faded away from my faith.

Even though I was popular and had many friends, or people I thought were friends, I always felt alone and felt something was missing. I was always fighting, always in trouble at school, to the point where I was kicked out of the Catholic School of St. Pat's and was considered a nuisance child.

This led me to being in trouble with the law starting at the age of 12 years.

All of this never made sense, I thought of myself as a good child and thought of myself as caring. Usually when I was in fights it was because I was protecting my young brother or other peers.

Then, at the age of 16, I moved from my hometown, Haileybury to North Bay where my mom's family is from.

I'll cut the story short because I know we do not have time for all the details but I will say I did a lot of things I should not have done during my life and I asked Our Father for forgiveness.

It had gotten to the point where I could not stand my burdens any longer and I got on my knees and prayed to God to set me free, "set my soul free Father", I said crying. I also told our Father to do whatever it took to take away my burdens.

The miracle did not happen that night but the night after I went through the most severe pain I had ever felt in my life. This pain, is not a pain any child of God should bare. The pain I felt ... it felt like I was being ripped apart. Not physically, but internally. I cried, I seized up and just could not withstand the pain. During this I prayed that God would save me.

And this is exactly what God did. The next morning, I woke up and for the first time I felt complete. Felt like I was loved again, felt like I was truly free and felt like someone, somewhere, loved me and had forgiven me even though I still believe till this day, that I should not have been forgiven.

There are things that I have done, that I know were wrong and know that I should not have done that I feel is not worth being forgiven for, but God forgives me and if God forgives me I guess it is worth being forgiven for.

(Please See Over)

My message before I move back to my hometown to you, my family, my supporters today is that if God our Father has the power to set me free even though I had to suffer extreme spiritual pain and has the power to make me feel complete and has the power to make me whole again, what can he do for you?

If you just let your whole soul out in prayer, imagine what God can do for you and imagine what he can do for not only you but for the world.

Let God heal you and ask Him for His forgiveness and when you are in distress my brothers and sisters, my family and supporters, bring your troubles to our Father and He will listen to your call. He listened to mine so I know in my heart that He will listen to yours.

I hope my story can inspire you all and hope this makes a difference in your life.

God was the only one there for me when I felt I was all alone so I know He is with you all.

This is why I am a dedicated Catholic today and it is why my journey is for the better now. I lost all the people that I did not need in my life but God our Father replaced these people with a family who loves me and is my strong-hold and that shows me they love me even though I am a sinner.

In Isaiah chapter thirty-five verse four it states *“Say to them that are of a fearful heart, be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you.”* This verse sums up what has been done to me and this ends my story.

Once again I hope this story inspires you to take your faith to the next level. I also will end by thanking you all for your support and want you to know I will always have you in my heart and soul because you are now my family.

God bless you all with His Holy Spirit.

Walter Hurst

Walter will be moving back to New Liskeard next month and we wish him great success in his new community and with his new parish where he plans on volunteering once he is settled.

Walter has been a wonderful asset to our Cathedral community as an Usher, a Lector, a Men's Club Member and a volunteer in our parish office.

Good luck Walter and many blessings from all of us at the Cathedral!