Faith Formation Files: Vol. 1, Issue 4 October 14, 2018

I dated a guy for 7 years before I met my husband, Kory. I remember asking my mother many times, “But how will I know if this is meant to be? How will I know if he’s ‘the one’?” And while I felt as though her response was ridiculous (and maybe even a bit of a cop-out) she said, “You’ll just know.” Well, what kind of answer was that?! I’ll *just know*. That didn’t give me anything definitive or concrete! Or so I thought. I eventually came to the acceptance that since I didn’t “just know” then the guy I had dated for so long wasn’t “the one.” I realized that if I was with him, then I was prohibiting myself from perhaps having the opportunity of meeting someone who was “the one.” And so, I broke up with him.

Fast forward 7 months…I went on a blind date with some guy my neighbor thought was just perfect for me. We met and had a wonderful evening. We saw each other a few more times over the next couple of weeks. We spent hours talking on the phone. And then in July, while talking to my mom about my nephew’s upcoming birthday party, I informed her that I was bringing Kory with me. I specifically recall saying, “I hope you like him because I’m going to marry him.” I *just knew*. Kory completed me in a way that made me realize that I hadn’t known something was even missing. We were both unattached to anyone else. We were emotionally and financially independent. We each had our own interests and hobbies. He didn’t need me telling him how much I depended on him. I didn’t need him to pay my bills. He didn’t demand that I always be at his side to “prove” my love for him. I didn’t want my sense of identity to be based on his approval. We were together because we wanted to be, not because we had to be.

And so it is with God’s love. It completes you in a way that totally fulfills you. It gives your life meaning. You realize your purpose; to love and to be loved. 1 John 4:8 says, “…God is love.” The credibility of the Christian faith lies in the proclamation of God’s love revealed in Jesus Christ. That is, our faith is plausible, valid, and satisfying *only if* we recognize God’s love in the mysteries of our faith, in the sacraments, and in our relationships with others. These are all revelations and indicators of God's love. I pray that this is a concept that you understand. I encourage you to contemplate it. Listen to what God says to you. Go and share this knowledge with your family, your co-workers, your friends, and even with complete strangers! Teaching others ensures your own understanding, and it also fuels the fire within to want to learn even more. Join in some of the many opportunities we have through our Faith Formation program. We might help you better understand your faith. You might help one of us fan the coals of love and learning within ourselves.

Blessings,

Julie Gould

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This Week:

* Sunday, Oct. 14, 4-6 pm at Fellowship Hall: Faith Formation classes for the whole family. Generations in Formation Together (GIFT) begins with a potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to pass. Tableware and drinks will be provided.
* Monday, Oct. 15, 7-8:30 pm at St. Francis de Sales Church, Lakeview : Adult Enrichment class
* Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7:30-9 pm at Fellowship Hall: Video Presentation; - videos 5&6 of the series Queen of Heaven, Mary’s Battle for Souls- “Guadalupe” & “Lourdes”