

# YEAR of FAITH:



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## Music Moves Woman to Faith

*Music makes us move, and poetry spoken in the most universal of all languages cannot help but stir the soul. For two members of the Holy Family Parish choir, music has also brought about conversion. This is the second of two stories from writer Penny Kelsey of Holy Family Parish, highlighting the welcoming power of liturgical music.*

Liz Klem grew up in a Lutheran family, where church and music intertwined in every aspect of her life. Her father was a musician; her mother seemed to have a melody for every occasion. Together, her parents drew the family into song whenever the situation arose – when little ones were scared by storms, when car trips got boring, for almost any imaginable reason.

Sunday school started at an early age, and music was a big part of it, even more so in Vacation Bible School. After “Happy Birthday,” the first song Liz remembers is “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” The Easter sunrise services at her church opened with her dad playing “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” on the trumpet. Music defined and punctuated religious worship for Liz.



Liz Klem, a parishioner of Holy Family Parish, hears God’s voice best through music.  
(Photo courtesy of Beth Algiers Manley)

Later, she attended a few Catholic Masses with close friends, but missed the participatory music she was so used to. A native of New Berlin, Wis., she lived for a time in southern Georgia and, while there, happened upon a welcoming Catholic community blessed with a captivating choir. She found herself returning week after week. The rhythm and words “spoke

to me directly,” she recalled.

“This is where I felt comfortable enough to take the RCIA journey, although I never joined that particular choir,” Liz explained. Her husband, too, was Catholic, but that didn’t sway her to fully enter into the Catholic faith at that particular time.

When she moved back to Wisconsin, Liz looked for the closest Catholic church to continue her new faith journey, which happened to be St. James Parish (now Lumen Christi). There, another choir, led by Larry Theiss, touched her with its inspiring music. This time, she listened to God’s calling and joined the Church.

That was more than 20 years ago, and today she continues to find meaning through music as a parishioner of Holy Family Parish, Whitefish Bay. As a foreign language teacher, Liz speaks fluent Spanish but says she responds best to the melodic word of God.

“Music brings joy,” she said. “Beyond that, it has a real power to touch hearts, minds and souls, and draw all of us closer to God.”

## Mary: Our Year of Faith Model



By Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI

Later this month we celebrate a very important holy day in our Church. Thursday, Aug. 15, marks the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Marian Holy Days, including the Assumption, are very important to us because they remind us of the pivotal role Mary played in God’s great plan of salvation.

Mary holds a place of primacy because, as the “Theotokos” or “God-bearer,” she is the “Mother of God” and, thus, the “Mother of the Church.” While she is most commonly known by these traditional titles, we can rightly give Mary an additional title. Given the amazing witness of her life, we can also refer to Mary as the “Mother of Faith.”

Looking to the Scriptures, we discover that Mary truly was a giant of

► See ARCHBISHOP, page 2.

## Keep God in Your Summer Vacation Plans

Summer is a time to relax and spend time with family and friends. However, sometimes attending Mass or keeping your prayer schedule can take a backseat to family vacations and weekends away. Keep God in your vacation plans this summer with these simple tips:

**Plan!** You visit the Grand Canyon because of its natural beauty and rich history. Why not do the same when searching for a parish to attend Mass on vacation? Find one near or on the way to your destination that has everything you're looking for: history, beauty, family-friendly and a reputation for inspiring music and worship. Most parishes maintain a website that includes everything you need to know. Visit [www.archmil.org/parishes/Find-Mass.htm](http://www.archmil.org/parishes/Find-Mass.htm) if you are traveling within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, or [www.MassTimes.org](http://www.MassTimes.org) to find a parish in cities across the United States.

**Take advantage of car time!** There are plenty of ways that your family can stay close to God during those long vacation car rides. Play Bible trivia, pray the rosary as a family, read aloud stories about the lives of the saints and share faith stories from your childhood.

**Discuss!** What does your family love



about the Catholic faith? What are their favorite parts of the Mass? If they could be any saint, who would they choose and why? Now is the time to delve into your Catholic faith by having spiritual

discussions with your family. Whether you're out on a hike, sitting in an airport or even just waiting in line for a ride at Disney World, there is always time to share what you love about Jesus Christ.

### ► ARCHBISHOP, from page 1.

faith and the perfect model for all of us in this Year of Faith.

At the heart of Mary's faith is her surrender to the will of God. When the angel announced to her that she had been chosen to bear the Son of God, she responded, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). In humility and obedience, Mary gave her life over to the greater workings of God's plan.

Mary also models a faith that believes in the unfathomable possibilities of God. By strictly human measure, the promise seemed ridiculous that she

would become pregnant through the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:35). But through the eyes of faith, Mary saw that God is truly at work in the human realm. Elizabeth affirmed this visionary faith, saying, "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled" (Lk 1:45).

Another dimension of Mary's faith is her intimate relationship with God, nourished and expressed through prayer. "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" (Lk 1:46-47). So begins Mary's stunning Magnificat in which she reminds us that all true prayer recognizes that the Mighty One is doing

great things to save us now, just as he has done throughout all time.

Finally, Mary demonstrates a faith of tenacious discipleship. She followed Jesus throughout his life, all the way to the foot of the cross (Jn 19:25-27). Never giving in to fear or despair, Mary experienced the Resurrection and gathered with the disciples in the upper room to receive the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 1:14; 2:1-4).

We look to Mary as the "Mother of Faith." Faith is a gift, and the generous response of Mary allows us to imitate her example and beg her intercession. Mary, Mother of Faith, pray for us and help us to LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

## How Do I Get to Heaven?

How can we, who struggle with sin, aspire to lives of holiness right now and find our way to eternal union with God in heaven? This is, by far, the most important question we can ask! The answer is actually quite simple: With a humble and obedient heart, let God's Law guide you and God's Grace sustain you (CCC, 1949).



We do not walk the path of holiness blindly. We have God's law to guide us in many ways. God's natural law of right and wrong was engraved on our souls at birth (CCC, 1954). God revealed the "Old Law" to us in the Ten Commandments (CCC, 1962), and gave us the "New Law of the Gospel" in Christ, especially in the Sermon on the Mount (CCC, 1965). Simply put, Jesus shows us the way to perfect holiness (CCC, 1953).

Even with the guidance of God's eternal law, we cannot walk the path of holiness on our own. We need the Holy Spirit to cleanse us, convert us, strengthen us and sustain us (CCC, 1989). The gift of sanctifying grace enables us to share the very life of God and act by his love (CCC, 2000). The divine help we need is at hand. We can receive it if we but lay our hearts open in humility and obedience (CCC, 2015).

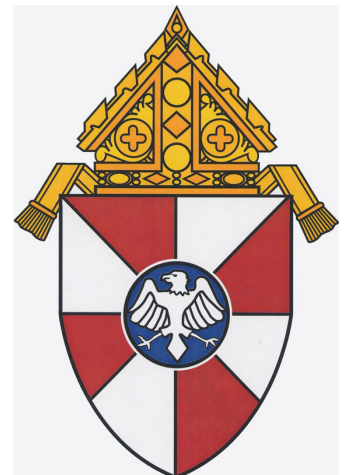


### "C4" Yourself!

Learn more about your faith through video. Each week during the Year of Faith, Bishop Donald J. Hying is featured in a two-minute video to walk you through the Catechism of our Catholic faith. The videos are posted on [www.archmil.org/year-of-faith.htm](http://www.archmil.org/year-of-faith.htm). Sign up to have a link to each newly posted video electronically delivered to you. Click on the RSS feed symbol  on the homepage of [www.archmil.org](http://www.archmil.org) to register for this free service!

### Join us for the 2013 Vatican II Awards

Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI invites you to a celebration honoring past and present recipients of the Archbishop's Annual Vatican II Awards on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013. Join us for a 7 p.m. prayer service and awards ceremony, with a dessert reception to follow, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 812 N. Jackson St., Milwaukee, WI 53202. To learn more about the Vatican II Awards, visit <http://tinyurl.com/pcvltl5>.



## María, el modelo perfecto de la Fe en el Año de la Fe.

A mediados del mes celebramos una festividad religiosa que es muy importante en nuestra Iglesia. El jueves, 15 de agosto, marca la Solemnidad de la Asunción de la Santísima Virgen María. Los días santos dedicados a María, incluyendo la Asunción, son bien importantes para nosotros ya que nos recuerdan del rol fundamental que María desempeña en el plan de salvación de Dios.

María ocupa un lugar de primacía porque, como la "Theotokos" o "la que dio a luz a Dios," ella es la "Madre de Dios" y por eso es la "Madre de la Iglesia". Aunque se le conoce comúnmente por estos títulos tradicionales, podemos, sin duda, darle a María otro título adicional. Dado al extraordinario testimonio de su vida, también nos podemos referir a María como la "Madre de la Fe".

Al leer las Escrituras, descubrimos que María en verdad era una gigante de

la fe y el modelo perfecto para todos en este Año de la Fe.

Al centro de la fe de María se encuentra su entrega a la voluntad de Dios. Cuando el ángel le anuncia que ella es la elegida para dar a luz al Hijo de Dios, ella responde, "Yo soy la servidora del Señor, que se cumpla en mí lo que has dicho" (Lc 1:38). De manera humilde y obediente, María entrega su vida para cumplir con el grandioso plan de Dios.

María también fue ejemplo de una fe que cree que para Dios nada es imposible. Visto desde el punto de vista meramente humano, parece ridícula la promesa de que ella quedara embarazada a través del Espíritu Santo (Lc 1:35). Pero a través de los ojos de la fe, María reconoció que Dios verdaderamente trabaja en el plano humano. Isabel afirma esta fe visionaria, diciendo, "Feliz de ti por haber creído que se



cumplirá lo que te fue anunciado de parte del Señor" (Lc 1:45).

Otra dimensión de la fe de María es su relación íntima con Dios, alimentada y expresada a través de la oración. "Proclama mi alma la grandeza del Señor, mi espíritu se alegra en Dios, mi Salvador" (Lc 1:46-47). Así comienza el increíble Magnificat de María en el cual ella nos recuerda que toda oración verdadera reconoce que el Todopoderoso está haciendo grandes cosas para salvarnos hoy, tal y como él lo ha hecho a través de todo el tiempo.

Finalmente, María demostró una fe de discipulado tenaz. Ella siguió a Jesús a través de su vida, hasta su final al pie de la cruz. Sin ceder nunca al miedo ni a la desesperación, María experimentó la Resurrección y acompañó a los discípulos en el cenáculo para recibir el Espíritu Santo en Pentecostés.

Vemos a María como la "Madre de la Fe". La fe es un regalo y la respuesta generosa de María nos permite imitar su ejemplo y pedir su intercesión. María, Madre de la Fe, ruega por nosotros y ayúdanos a ¡AMARNOS LOS UNOS A LOS OTROS!

### ¿Cómo puedo llegar al cielo?

¿Cómo nosotros, quienes luchamos contra el pecado, podemos aspirar a vidas de santidad en el diario vivir y encontrar el camino a una unión eterna con Dios en el cielo? Esta es la pregunta más importante que nos podemos preguntar. La respuesta es realmente bien simple: Con un corazón humilde y obediente, dejen que la ley y la gracia de Dios los guíe y los sostenga (CEC, 1949).

No caminamos hacia la santidad ciegamente. Tenemos la ley de Dios para guiarnos en incontables maneras. La ley natural de Dios del bien y del mal fue grabada en nuestras almas al nacer (CEC, 1954). Dios nos reveló la "Ley Antigua" a través de los Diez Mandamientos (CEC, 1962), y nos dio la "Ley Nueva o Ley Evangélica" a través de Cristo, particularmente en el Sermón de la Montaña (CEC, 1965). Simplemente, Jesús nos enseña el camino a una santidad perfecta (CEC, 1953).

Aun con la orientación de la Ley Eterna de Dios, no podemos caminar el camino de santidad solos. Necesitamos al Espíritu Santo para que nos limpie, nos convierta, nos fortalezca y nos sostenga (CEC, 1989). El don de gracia santificante nos permite compartir la vida con Dios y obrar por su amor (CEC, 2000). La ayuda divina que necesitamos está al alcance. Podemos recibirla si abrimos nuestros corazones a la humildad y la obediencia (CEC, 2015).



Cada semana encontrarán disponible un nuevo mensaje en nuestro sitio web, <http://www.archmil.org/Espanol.htm> y en el programa de radio "El Mensajero Católico" los sábados de 8 – 9 de la mañana en la Gran D, 104. 7 FM.