



MESSENGER

CONVERSION OF THE HEART

Pandemic teaches this family: Faith is Number One

"I found *Catholic Answers* about seven years ago. My wife said, 'Take a listen to AM 820!'" So, Andrew Rumsberger did. In fact, he started calling in to *Catholic Answers* almost every day asking questions that were coming up during his unexpected journey into the Faith. Andrew's goal was to be able to say to the show hosts, "I gotcha!" Andrew admits, "I wanted to trick them but I could never prove them wrong."

CATHOLIC ANSWERS: THE ANSWERS MADE SENSE.

After calling in so many times, the answers began to make sense to Andrew, and not just because of their faithfulness to Scripture, logic, and common sense. "The show hosts also brought in history. I fact checked their answers. No kidding! I was hooked on researching Catholicism and spent six years reading everything Catholic, engaging in any debate, including discussions on AM 820."

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Andrew was not brought up in any faith tradition. His exposure to faith was through his Grandmother who encouraged the parents to take the kids to a Lutheran church at Easter and Christmas. He reflects that outside of these excursions, he didn't think much about faith. As a youngster, one of his memorable moments was when a friend's Dad said, "Andrew, I want to show you something..." The Dad then whipped out his ancient Bible and read a parable to Andrew and his friend. Andrew says, "The Dad didn't ask us anything or make any comment on that parable. He just said, 'Now you guys go out and play!'" In retrospect, Andrew believes that it was a Holy Spirit moment when God was saying, "This is another way to show Myself to you!"



I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FAITH.

"I am an analytical kind of person," continues Andrew. "It seems that people have always asked me about faith - which was strange because I didn't know anything about faith." When Andrew was 18, Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, came out. Andrew wanted to see it. "Something clicked for me seeing Jesus being tormented for our sins. I decided then and there that I wanted to give my life to this God who was so sacrificial. But left on my own, I felt at a loss because I didn't know what to do, where to go, or how to pray." That is when God stepped in and connected Andrew to Jessica, who was a practicing Methodist.

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Jessica introduced Andrew to faith. While dating, Andrew was drawn deeper into the mystery of God. Jessica and Andrew were married in 2009. They became involved in a non-denominational Protestant church.

In one Protestant congregation, he started a Men's Oil Change ministry. For several years, he and other congregation members and mechanical friends used the church parking lot to offer free oil changes and car washes to widows and single parents. "A car dealer gave us a 50-gallon drum of oil at cost. AutoZone donated filters. While we were working on the car, other members were praying over the car owners and letting them know 'God Loves You.'" They offered this to anybody, not just members of the congregation.

[CONTINUED]



"I used to listen to pop radio. One day, the channel just spontaneously jumped to St. Gabriel Radio and has stayed there! It's a free education in Faith and apologetics."
– Faithful listener Tara

LOCAL PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTS



CONVERSION OF THE HEART (CONTINUED)

FR. RICCARDO CALLED ME!

The Holy Spirit worked slowly but surely through the air waves to soften Andrew's heart. "Fr. John Riccardo was a huge inspiration. The way he spoke was so amazing and loving. How could a Catholic sound like this?" In 2015, Andrew contacted Fr. Riccardo. "I wrote him a letter and said, 'I need help!' A week later Fr. Riccardo called me on the cell phone. He said, 'I'll do whatever it takes to bring you to the Faith.' He reached out. He was going to spend time with me! This is the most loving thing I have ever experienced." This gesture pierced Andrew's heart. "I was convinced without a shadow of a doubt. Gotta be all in for this!" he says with deep feeling.

A BIG YEAR FOR FAITH

Andrew and Jessica have three children. In the winter of 2017, their middle son, who was eight months old, was diagnosed with a metabolic bone disease that caused fractures in his body. During this time, it was an incredible trial that caused both pain and sadness. A week before their son went into the hospital for his illness, Andrew and Jessica found out that he was allergic to milk. They later learned that his vitamin D levels were so low that one medical professional said, "his bones could break by touching them." It took their son almost eight months to recover fully and at almost the same time, Andrew lost his job. These challenges brought Andrew and Jessica to turn to God as their sole source of strength and comfort, relying heavily on Him day to day.

"I never felt scared, threatened, or fearful. I was in prayer three to four hours daily thanking God for the victory that I knew would happen."

Andrew credits his wife Jessica with instigating their Faith journey into the Church. "Early on in their courtship, she would tune the radio to AM 820 just so that I could make fun of it. 'Let's listen so we can find out what's wrong with Catholicism!' I thought, 'At least they're talking about God. *Called to Communion* became my absolute favorite. Now, I listen every day."

GROWING FAITH WORKS WONDERS FOR FAMILY.

In 2017, Andrew was drawn to the Truth of Catholic teaching more and more. He also began a campaign on the home front to share his growing Catholic convictions with Jessica. "To my surprise, at the same time Jessica had been doing her own search on Catholicism and I didn't know it! Together, we both decided to enroll in Right of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) in the spring of 2018." In December of

Andrew began tuning into AM 820 at his wife's prompting and became an avid listener.

CONVERSION OF THE HEART



2018, the whole family entered the Catholic Church and we had our three children baptized shortly after.

"Father Theodore Sill and Fr. Peter Asantebwana, priests at St. Matthew the Apostle in Gahanna, have been with us on an unbelievable walk in Faith," says Andrew with appreciation and admiration. "I cannot believe all the tools that we have to gain graces from God and live out our Faith as Catholics. Our growing Faith has worked wonders for our marriage and our kids. With the full armor of Christ, we embrace the Faith with our entire family. It's not only fun to answer the tough questions that come up – it's easy because the answers are true. Our conversion has affected my family, the people around us, and even people I don't know!"

DO YOU WANT TO PRAY THE ROSARY?

"Our kids are so accepting. Our oldest son has completely embraced the Faith. While pasta is cooking, he asks, 'Do you want to pray a Rosary?' He might have a vocation to the priesthood! He is very in tune with the spirit of the Faith. Mass is his favorite place to be!"

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"This year, the pandemic has been a blessing for us – and for all people – in many ways. We are learning to concentrate on the important things in life, and Faith is Number One. A few weeks into lockdown, we began hosting video chats of the Divine Mercy chaplet and Rosary. Many people join us with lots of prayers. Bishop Brennan even joined in on one occasion."

Of the many things that Andrew has learned through Catholic radio is the joy and hope in the Catholic teaching on the Communion of Saints. He explains

that in the Protestant world he was in, there is no need for a communion of saints. Protestants believe that you are a perfect and redeemed saint already. God knows all our sins. He has already forgiven them because Jesus died in atonement for our sins.

THE JOY OF BEING SURROUNDED BY SAINTS

Andrew shares with enthusiasm what he has learned recently through AM 820. "The Communion of Saints is a gift from God that helps us in our greater goal – Eternal Life. There is the Church Triumphant, the saints already in Heaven. The Church Suffering, the saints in Purgatory awaiting the final vision and the glory of God in Heaven. And the Church Militant, those of us on Earth fighting the good fight and running the race."

The knowledge of Scripture that saturated his Protestant life comes out when Andrew talks about what he has learned. "The Church Triumphant is what St. Paul points to in *Hebrews* chapter 12, verses 1-2: 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us, and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.'"

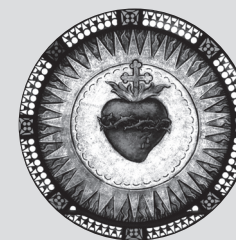
Andrew concludes with joy in his voice, "These heroes of the faith up in Heaven are fully alive. They are awaiting our prayers, to intercede for us to God the Father! What an amazing gift we can utilize in the Catholic Church by allowing them to pray for us."

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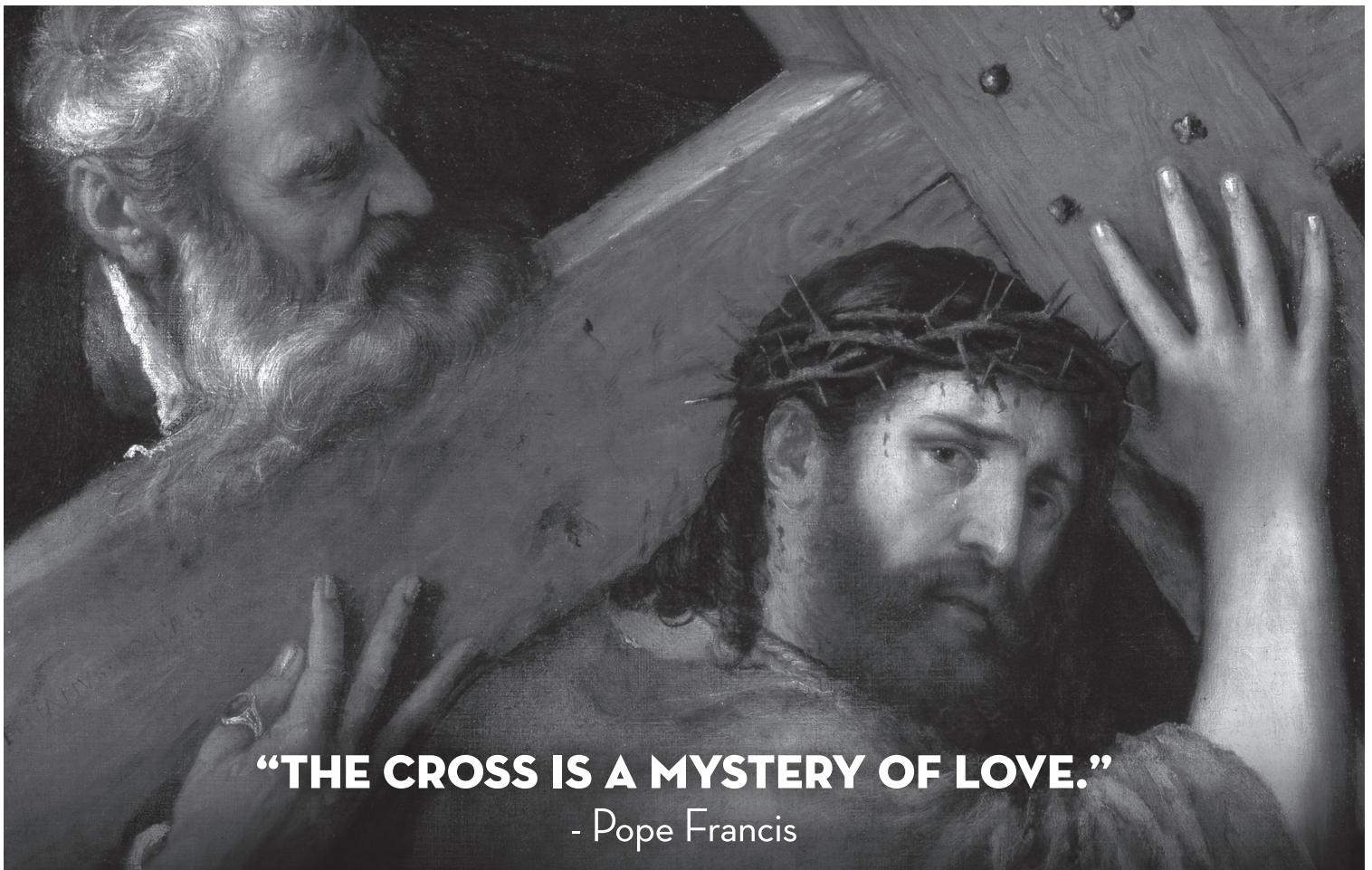
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“THE CROSS IS A MYSTERY OF LOVE.”

- Pope Francis