

Witness talk Sept. 16, 2018

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Jesus asks “who do you say I am”? The apostles answered in their way. I answer that Jesus is my Lord and Savior. When I think about it I actually would say Jesus, YOU are my Lord and Savior and that personal relationship makes all the difference.

As a cradle Catholic growing up in a very Catholic family which included a priest and a nun, I never really had to give much thought to putting in effort to be Catholic because it was a way of life – Church, school, friends etc. But, it became a far, far more fulfilling way to live once I realized it was up to me to accept Jesus in my life. I know it began for me when I had to make the decision on my own in college to attend Mass or not. I did and I looked forward to it. No matter where I was in the early years, graduate school, first job, I found a church and it was important to me to have that as the center, the rock of my life. That has continued to this day as the foundation of who I am.

We all live in a very busy world with many secular things competing for our attention. It is what it is, in many ways but keeping Jesus and Mary at the center of my life has made it easier to handle those things. People who know me, know that my life experience has included a lot of the things we all fear. Moving forward, one step at a time with prayer at the center of each day gets me through. But it is not all about seeking help and support for tough times. I am a firm believer (and my students will confirm this) in being thankful to God every day for all of His great gifts – we thank God for sunshine, for rain, - yes even for cold and heat. God blesses our lives in many ways every single day. He walks with us and when necessary He carries us but He is always there and that is the absolute most important thing I would like to convey – God is always with us.