

Good morning and thank you Father Matera for asking me to share my faith journey.

My husband, Vic and I came to Simsbury in 1983 with our three daughters Jennifer, Joanna, and Kathleen who all received First Communion and Confirmation here.

I was the last of four children being 15 years younger than my sister who was expected to help with my care. When I was older I learned that she really didn't like me usurping her place as the youngest and the only girl. However, no matter older or younger there was always a great amount of love shown to us by my parents and extended family.

It was truly my family that taught me, what faith and good works were. I have memories of my mother making meals for people who were sick or in need. Now my sister and I share fond memories of my mother's cooking and laugh about the times my sister had to babysit me.

I was raised in the Eastern Rite Church (Ukrainian Catholic Church) where I experienced rich tradition and rituals which certainly engrained in me a very strong faith. In fact, I remember my Roman Catholic friends asking why I had a Holy Day and they didn't. We did have more. I loved the richness of my faith coming to me from our Lord and the first Christian communities. This was really apparent to me when I taught religious education classes to the Confirmation candidates here at St. Mary. I taught them that their faith was a great gift and asked them as adult members of our parish to pass this faith

along. As I taught these students I was learning too. This is why I enrolled in the Connecticut Catholic Biblical School. I learned so much more about Scriptures and completed the four year program for which I am so grateful to have had available to me. Even now I try to attend programs offered by the Bible School. I invite you to consider this program. It will bring you closer to your faith.

I taught school for over 20 years, but when I began to teach students of other languages, I realized how much my faith supported me in instructing them. Often times my teaching went beyond the classroom into the community volunteering at community centers, or meetings to help my students and their families become a part of a new culture.

As a Eucharist Minister, my faith continues to grow serving our Lord here at Mass or to those unable to attend Mass.

I work with the Adult Enrichment and Spiritual Development Committee which offers programs and speakers throughout the year for all our parishioners. These programs are an opportunity for each of us to learn more by sharing our faith journey with one another. My hope is St Mary's community continues its faith journey with good works. Come join us.