



## Diocese of Fargo *Our Stories of Faith*

For the complete series  
visit [www.fargodiocese.org/storiesoffaith](http://www.fargodiocese.org/storiesoffaith)

### *Katie Dubas' Story*

I am a cradle catholic, raised in the faith since infancy and I have never fallen away from practicing it. My situation is perhaps commonplace to many catholics but I am grateful to share my own story in hopes that you may realize that God works in 'non-glamorous' ways too.

I grew up in Nebraska and my parents still reside there. As a child, my parents taught me and my siblings our prayers, took us to Mass every Sunday and made sure we faithfully attended religious education (CCD). We regularly prayed the rosary on car trips. The faith was part of our lives. It intensified when my parents became involved in the charismatic renewal in the 1980s. They discovered a deeper intimacy with the Lord than they had previously known and in turn they shared it with their children. I was 'baptized in the Holy Spirit' when I was about 10 years old and personally experienced God's love for me that words cannot describe; I knew that God was real and that He loved me.

I was a pretty shy kid in both grade school and high school. I wasn't outgoing and only had a few close friends, but I got along with almost everyone. I got average grades and was only involved in a couple extra-curricular activities. Youth group was enjoyable because those who attended were teens who really wanted to be there; it wasn't mandatory. Attending World Youth Day in Denver (1992) was another faith-strengthener; I began to realize how big and 'universal' the catholic faith is



when people from every nation knew the right gestures and responses for Mass because they too celebrated the *same* Mass!

Truly, my parents encouraged me to participate in whatever Church opportunities were available, including diocesan-sponsored retreats. After attending a TEC retreat (teens encounter Christ) I began reading my bible more regularly. My faith was growing. And during my senior year of high school I began accompanying my Dad to daily Mass in the mornings before school. Yes, I was the only teenager at Mass and they were happy to see me!

Listening to my Mom's advice, I decided to go to college at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. This was another faith-enriching time in my life because I was surrounded by other vibrant Catholics who loved Jesus and the Church. It was an easy place to live my faith because the trends were to go to daily Mass, frequent reconciliation, spend spring break on a mission trip or add a second degree in Theology to your major. During my college years I did prolonged missionary work with NET Ministries (National Evangelization Teams). This is where I first learned to speak publicly about my faith. After 10



weeks of intensive training, I was sent out in with ten other young adults in a 15-passenger van; we traveled all over doing retreats for junior high and high school youth. My faith grew in leaps and bounds the two years I served with NET (1996-1998). I saw God working in countless lives and was privileged to pray with hundreds of youth for them to draw closer to Jesus. Plus written into our daily routine was personal and team prayer time which was a great time of grace. During my time with NET, my Dad suffered a heart attack; my faith was tested and I realized that I must rely upon God's grace to take care of Dad and that He had a plan in this no matter what happened. I am grateful that God's plan was to restore his health. My Dad and my Mom has taught me so much about the faith!

The Lord has done great things for me; I am filled with joy! The Lord used NET to bring me out of my shyness and awaken in me a desire to hand on the faith. I decided to return to FUS and study Catechetics. As I studied the truths of the catholic faith, I fell in love with the Church and her sacraments – vehicles of grace. As my knowledge of the faith grew, so did my joy! In 2001 I graduated with a BA in Theology and Religious Education and have put the degree to good use in a variety of ways. I worked at a parish in South Dakota for three years as a Director of Religious Education and RCIA coordinator. I got my feet wet in parish life and realized how difficult it is to stir up faith in disinterested catholics. During my time in South Dakota, Mom was diagnosed with breast cancer and I again wrestled with the Lord, daily surrendering her outcome into His hands. Thanks be to God, she survived and is still

cancer-free to this day. In 2004 I went back to FUS and worked as a Residence Director for four years, taking on the role of mentor and 'spiritual mother' to hundreds of young ladies. I learned many things about servant leadership in that position.

In August 2008, with a renewed desire to be back in the field of catechetics, I accepted a job in the Diocese of Fargo in Evangelization and Catechesis. I have been blessed beyond measure to work in such a faith-filled diocese, helping hand on the faith which I have grown to love. I know that there continue to be disinterested catholics everywhere and I continue to have hope that they will recognize the Holy Spirit at work in their lives and begin to embrace their faith with more conviction. I want to be an instrument in God's hands to help bring new life in Christ into disinterested catholics.

I have met many great people whose stories have made me laugh and cry. I have seen the hand of the Lord at work drawing us into deeper relationship with the Trinity. Christ is about a good work in us and He will bring it to completion!



*Katie Dubas (pictured standing far R)  
Sts. Anne & Joachim Parish  
Fargo, ND*