



Diocese of Fargo
Our Stories of Faith

For the complete series
visit www.fargodiocese.org/storiesoffaith

Nathan Sather's Story



September 11th 2001 is a day I won't soon forget. I was in the Army stationed in Yongsan, Korea and watched the

second tower hit on my TV around 11pm. It's true that evil happens, but it is also true that God brings great things out of great evil and the greater the evil, the greater the good God can bring out of it. If you are hesitant to believe that consider looking at a crucifix.

9/11 caused the government to dramatically increase its intelligence capabilities and I was an Intelligence Analyst in the Army and I turned that into a job as a contractor with the Central Intelligence Agency at the National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC). I had a 'great' job making very good money and my family and I had just purchased a \$260,000 home. But it was about 45 miles away from work so I had to commute.

At the NCTC I had to learn a bit about Islam for my job and I began to question, "Why don't I believe these things to be true?" I worked with many different people, from a semi-practicing Buddhist to a very brilliant

agnostic and I began to question what was true. It was already happening.



During this time I was driving the 45 miles one way to work but in Washington DC, depending on traffic, I would spend about 2-3 hours/day in my car. It didn't take long for Sports Talk 980 to get real old with the same commercials. And even the purchase of an iPod did not quell my boring drive.

Then one day at a Barnes & Noble I got a crazy idea. I should buy the bible on CD and listen to it in my car. I was shocked to find blatantly Catholic ideas pouring out of the Old Testament. I had way too many questions.

I started exploring Catholicism more deeply and came to across a guy named John Martinogni who claimed that you could actually find Catholic teaching in the bible! **Ha!** I listened mostly to hear how he'd be laughed off

the air. But I was amazed. Every time a caller called in with a question about Catholic teaching, John would take them to where in Scripture they could find that doctrine, dogma, custom or discipline. I was shocked. And hooked.

I listened to John's radio program every week and time and time again I was shocked at how biblical the Catholic faith was. At John's website www.biblechristiansociety.com I learned that the church existed before the bible. In other words, we could have a church without the bible, but we couldn't have the bible without the church. I knew then that the Catholic Church was the church founded by Christ and protected by the Holy Spirit from teaching error. But how did I **know** that?

That certainty came to me from God through a most unusual source, Martin Luther. I learned that Catholicism teaches contraception is evil and found that Martin Luther had vehemently opposed contraception too! Then I realized that the Holy Spirit really does protect the Catholic Church from teaching error in faith and morals because only the Catholic Church has remained faithful to centuries of Judeo-Christian teaching on sexual morality.

If Luther's followers today believe that Luther was wrong on contraception, then how can they be certain that he wasn't wrong on other issues, such as Apostolic Succession and the authority of the Pope? I was left with two choices. I could ignore the truth of

Catholicism or to whole-heartedly accept it. There is no middle ground. I chose the latter.

My sympathies go out to the families who have suffered so much because of 9/11 or because of its effects, such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. While I am certainly not glad that it happened, I would like those families to know that out of that horrifically evil day, amazing good came out of it. That day was a domino which led to my wife and I finding Jesus Christ and His church. My marriage is better, my relationships are better, my entire life is better because of this church. And I trust that God can bring amazing things for others out of my suffering and trials because I've witnessed it firsthand. No matter what happens, God is still on the throne!



*2010 Nathan & Angelia Sather
St. Catherine's Parish
Valley City, ND*