

Parishioner of the Month - March 2020

Jerry Piquette



Jerry has been a member of St. Peter's Church since 1957. He grew up in Westcliffe Colorado and considers himself a "cradle Catholic" being brought up with a strong Catholic background. It was just part of his life and the way it was. Jerry's service to the Church started at age 5 as an Alter Server and he noted the book was so heavy he couldn't carry it - dropped it a few times! His confirmation was at a young age; about 8 years old and he was confirmed by the very 1st Bishop of Pueblo.

Jerry continued his role as an Altar Server through High School and after High School, he enlisted into the US Navy for three years. Upon returning home from the Navy, he found himself at Western State College (now Western Colorado University) and St. Peter's Church in 1957. He married in 1958 and they had two daughters and one son. Jerry's dedication to St. Peter's Church has never changed. He has been involved in a wide range of ministries including: The Knights of Columbus since 1965, lector for 50 years, leading in the rosary, adoration, parish & finance council, eucharistic ministry, and much more. Around 1990 Jerry started to attend daily mass and would give the Communion Service during the week, in the absence of a Priest; this was prior to having Deacons. He also went door to door asking fellow parishioners for their support with the DDF (Diocesan Development Fund), now known as the DMF (Diocesan Ministry Fund) and was part of the Newman Club at Western State. In 2000 he took a trip to Rome and had the honor of being in the front row at the Vatican when Pope John Paul II passed by right in front of him during a parade in his Pope Mobile – how awesome is that?

When I asked Jerry what he felt his gifts are that God has given for him to share, he noted his patience and he follows the old adage that actions speak louder than words. People know Jerry is a good Christian and over the years, he has learned to feel comfortable talking and sharing his faith. His relationship with God grows through taking time to pray at the beginning and end of each day, in addition to

reading the Bible, devotionals, and what he calls “silent communication” - enjoying the beauty of nature, and just praising God in little ways throughout his day.

Folks have asked Jerry how he knew when he was saved. For him it goes back to being raised as that “cradle Catholic.” He learned at a very young age to never take his faith or Jesus for granted – Jesus is his Personal Savior and Jerry just always knew Jesus was his Savior, it was what he grew up with.

Experiencing Holy Moments. In 1994, Jerry made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and returned with a much better knowledge and vision of where Jesus was born, ministered, and died. In 1997 he went on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, which has led Jerry to have a special devotion to the Blessed Mother. While in Medjugorje, Jerry climbed the Hill of Apparitions and Mount Krizevac. He attended Mass at St. James Church and was present during an apparition. His devotion has been much more pronounced since returning. He prays more, especially all four rosaries daily, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, and is trying to live by Mary’s messages and is learning to pray with the heart.

Another Holy Moment for Jerry came a number of years ago. St. Joseph was Jerry’s first favorite Saint, in fact it is his Confirmation name. This changed when a relics Priest came to visit St. Peters. The Priest filled the Parish Hall with religious relics and had them set up for everyone to touch and see. He told the Parishioners that when they touched the relics – if one felt hot to them, this is telling you they are the Saint for you. Jerry proceeded to go around and touch the relics and when he came St. Jude, it was hot so he immediately removed his finger. This is when he decided St. Jude was telling him that he is his Patron Saint. Ironically, Saint Jude was known for preaching the gospel in particularly difficult circumstances. As such, he became the patron saint of “hopeless cases, and things most despaired of.” Jerry’s service has and is still bringing hope and encouragement to all those who cross his path. *Thank you Mr. Piquette.*

*****If there is a fellow Parishioner you would like to nominate – please contact the Parish Office.*