



God's Love Story

Your Story, Too!

You were created for more than experiences of short-lived happiness. You were created for friendship with God, and He will never stop seeking a deeper friendship with you.

God is not just “loving” – He is LOVE itself! The relationship between the Persons of the Blessed Trinity is an eternal communion of self-giving love and as a result God desires to share His love. He created each of us to receive His life and love.

God created our first parents and invited them into friendship with Him. His gift of *sanctifying grace*—a share in His own divine life—united Adam and Eve to Him. This was always His plan for us: to know Him, love Him, and serve Him by serving others, and live with Him forever.

Adam and Eve chose to let trust in their hearts die and disobey God. Through this Original Sin, humanity lost that original gift of God's grace. Sin wounded our relationship with God, one another, and creation. However, God did not abandon us but immediately promised a Redeemer. Throughout the generations, God prepared His people to receive Him. He called Abraham, freed Israel from slavery, and gave Moses the Ten Commandments – laws that showed His people *how* to love Him and their neighbors. Yet the

Law alone could not heal the human heart of the wound of original sin as apart from God's grace (His power) they (we) cannot “keep” the Law. Through the prophets, God was preparing His people to be disposed to receive the Savior and His salvation He would offer.

Jesus Fulfills the Promise of Restoring Us to the Family of God.

At last, the promise was fulfilled. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary conceived Jesus, the Son of God. God became man, One like us in every way but sin, who experienced every aspect of life: being held in His mother's arms, growing up in a family and learning to work a trade with His earthly father. Ultimately, Jesus came to restore the friendship we could never restore ourselves.

Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God, gathered the twelve Apostles, and established His Church. At the Last Supper, He gave us Himself: His Body and Blood, offered for us and given to us. On the Cross, Jesus freely gave His life for the forgiveness of our sins. His love went all the way to death in order to rescue us from it. Death could not defeat nor hold Him nor those who received this freedom He obtained for them through His rising from the dead. This victory of His Resurrection is the heart of our faith. Jesus opened the way for us to this new

life in relationship with God.

His Gift Is for You
At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon Mary and the disciples, giving them supernatural courage to proclaim Jesus to the world. The Church continues that mission today, announcing the “Good News” and celebrating the Sacraments.

In Baptism, we receive new life in Christ. Whenever we turn away from the Source of love and try to live in a self-reliant manner, we still know the pain of that wound of original sin. But, when we fall into sin, Christ offers forgiveness and restores us through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In the Eucharist, He draws us into intimate communion with Himself and strengthens us to love as He loves. Through the life of the Church, God continues to pour out His grace.

This is more than a story from long ago. It is **your story**. Whatever your situation, Jesus invites you to draw near. He desires a real friendship with you, one that begins now and reaches its fullness in Heaven. Will you let Jesus draw near?

*Father, thank You for loving me.
Jesus, help me know You and trust You. Holy Spirit, open my heart to Your life of grace. Please lead me deeper into friendship with the Blessed Trinity. Amen.*

By Ann Lankford