

Introduction

The writing of this book came from another story, a true story over the battle for one soul that has led me into a battle for *ALL* souls. It is a Heavenly personal battle of the love of Jesus and our Blessed Mother Mary who will never, never give up on us, and of the agony and passion with which they fight right now for every soul, for my soul, for *your* soul.

The beginning of this story took place during Eucharistic Adoration – Eucharistic Adoration is prayer in the presence of the Sacred Host that has been transfigured, or changed, into the true body and blood of Jesus by the blessing of a priest. The story began at St. James Church, during a particular Eucharistic Adoration, while I was with Jesus present in the Host. The journey since is a most beautiful, painful, passionate, love-beyond-all-measure blessing meant for you, your loved ones – all of us.

I am overwhelmed and humbled to be able to share such a wonderful and powerful gift. It is not something I ever envisioned would happen to a little girl from Cheektowaga, New York. Yet, throughout my life there have been times when I have felt a complete and profound connection to God's love. I am sure you have heard of God's love before, and perhaps felt it too. This is just another story of that love, God's love for all of us.

I take comfort in Jesus' words:

Do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. (Matthew 10:19)

My relationship with Jesus started when I was a young girl, as early as age 4 or 5. When I was sad or frightened or troubled, I would sit on the bed in my room and listen to the Christmas song, *Away in the Manger*. The words of the last verse of the song became a prayer for me. I prayed, in song, those words over and

over. I prayed directly to Our Lord. I felt that he had come to me; I felt His presence and abiding love. I knew in my heart that He had come to me as a friend and protector, and I still feel his love in my life. To this day, whenever I even hear the song, I begin to cry.

***Be near me, Lord Jesus. I ask thee to stay,
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to Heaven to live with thee there.***

In those times, I felt completely overtaken by a feeling of a most pure love. Like the man in the preceding fictional story, it was a love so immense that it was beyond description or knowledge or ability to bear it without the support of Our Lord. I hope this story will show you that he loves you, and each of us, with just as much intensity and passion.

God, you have taught me from my youth;
to this day I proclaim your wonderous deeds.
(Psalm 71:17)

The words of the song foreshadowed what I learned some 50 years later on a religious pilgrimage in 2012. What I did not understand when I was young, and would not see for another five decades, was that this little verse can be likened to a child's version of the Fatima prayer, which appears at the end of this Introduction.

I did not journey to the blessed event that occurred at Eucharistic Adoration readily or easily. My husband, Ray, is the one who wanted to go on this pilgrimage and urged me to join him. I was apprehensive. More than that, I was reluctant, even afraid, at some level, to go. Eventually, Ray simply said, "That's OK, you don't have to go, I will just go without you" – so naturally, and with the good humor that came from his taunt, I decided to go.

I told my husband that I did not understand why I did not want to go, but the truth was that I was afraid. I was afraid of letting go of myself and opening my head, heart and soul to Our Lord.

I knew in my heart, that over the years, during those times when I would get closer to Jesus, I felt overwhelmed by the love that I felt. The word “overwhelmed” is a pitifully feeble description of the love I felt from Our Lord. I understand it sounds strange, and even contradictory, to be afraid of love, but that was how I felt at the time. How can a love be so pure? So, timeless? How dare I believe I am worthy of such love?

My journey after the event was, in some ways, even more difficult. The need to write this account was urgent and compelling. I continuously thought about writing this account, spoke to many people about writing it, and even confessed to a priest my feelings of guilt for not having written it already. I was stalling what I felt compelled to do; I kept putting it off.

I spoke to a nun about my struggles with telling this story. I told her I was afraid of opening myself to Jesus – afraid of the power of His overwhelming love. She told me that the feeling of fear was the evil one’s way of whispering in my ear. I had to let go of that fear and put this to words.

During these years, I have also experienced medical issues that have made the writing of this book even more challenging.

It has been a struggle. It has taken me more than nine years to overcome the obstacles and put my story to paper. As I wrote this, I continually prayed to Our Lord and Our Lady to help me to convey to you only what was in accord with God’s will.

The story that follows is a true accounting of an event that happened to me at Eucharistic Adoration on March 22, 2012 and the journey that has followed.

This book is in three parts.

Part I – The Witness recounts the event that happened to me at Eucharistic Adoration at St. James. There, I was blessed to be witness to a soul at the moment of death, making the choice

between Heaven and Hell. This event is meant to show us all that the choice of eternal rest in Heaven or eternal damnation in Hell is ours, by virtue of the free will granted to us by God. At the same time, we are meant to understand that Jesus and His Mother, Mary, fight for our souls. They fight so very hard for our souls because it is a fight for life for all time.

Part II – The Choice focuses on why and how the decisions and paths we take in our lives affect us in our ultimate choice of Heaven or Hell. Using familiar stories and passages from the Bible, as aided by reflections from the event at Eucharistic Adoration, these chapters provide insight into the messages God has given us for the journey to our salvation.

Additionally, in this section, there is an extended reflection on the parallels between the sufferings that Jesus endured during His life and the sufferings many of us endure today. This chapter brings clarity to the fact that Jesus empathizes with our pain in a deep and personal way, and that He is ready to forgive us for our sins.

Part III – The Chaplet describes a new way of sending our prayers to the Lord. It is called the Chaplet for the Love of Souls. Based primarily on what is known as the “Fatima Prayer,” it is a plea directly to Jesus, it gives us a simple, yet powerful tool for intercessory prayer, especially when prayed in a group. Utilizing a set of rosary beads, it does not replace the blessed Rosary we have recited all our lives, it is just another way to express our love of God and one another.

In taking this journey, there are three things that I have come to more deeply understand and believe with my whole mind and soul:

1. *Prayer is the most powerful weapon in all of our struggles.*
2. *We must have the courage to pray to Jesus directly.*
3. *We must pray for EVERY soul.*

We all need prayers as much as we need to pray for one another. I pray for you, dear reader, that you may take these messages to

heart and help heal the world, and *ALL* souls.

Let us pray, together, the Fatima Prayer:

Oh, my Jesus.

Forgive us our sins.

Save us from the fires of Hell.

Lead all souls to Heaven,

Especially those in most need of thy mercy.

Amen