

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

BY DANA & BRIAN McLAUGHLIN

Dana:

I have many titles: I am an only child, I am the wife to that guy (pointing to Brian), I am a mother of 4 kids, I am a convert to the Catholic Church and went through RCIA here at Holy Trinity, but most importantly I am a daughter to God. Because I am His daughter I try every day to Thank Him for so much in my life. Using the gratitude journal Holy Trinity has given us has helped me to think of a variety of things to be thankful for.

1. I am thankful for my toothbrush. Whenever I forget to brush my teeth all day I am wishing I had my toothbrush with me. Some of you kids might have done the same thing.

2. I am thankful for my car. We have had some major car issues lately. We are now on our 4th rental car in 2 months. I am very thankful I have a car to drive my children to school each day. I am thankful whatever car I am driving starts in the morning and I don't have to drive in the snow.

3. I am thankful for shoes. When I think of the poor Haiti children who don't have shoes I am so grateful for mine. Using my shoes to walk up the stairs in the social center helps me to be thankful for my legs and the ability to use the stairs. One place I always use the stairs is the cancer center.

I was diagnosed in 2011 with lymphoma and had my spleen removed. Dr. Hermann gave me the best advice to always take my pain medicine, and how I loved those meds! I had gone 5 years without treatment until this last December when I had my first infusion treatment. Going to my Wednesday "Spa Day" helped me to appreciate how so many others have such a harder time with cancer. Being allowed to have 5 hours to just watch movies and play candy crush was a huge break for a mom! I am so grateful for having cancer and realizing I am a lucky one compared to so many others. I imagined Jesus holding my right hand and Mary our Mother holding my left hand and never being alone. During infusion I wore my prayer shawl given to me from some members of Holy Trinity Parish, this helped me to feel the love prayers and support of this whole community. So thank you to you all, you don't realize how much you have helped me... Now onto Brian (as I am crying by this point)

Brian:

In 2001 I took a job at Aerojet in Rancho Cordova so that we could exit the Bay Area and Dana could be a stay at home mom. We moved to Folsom and spent weekends that summer looking for houses. We knew literally nobody east of Fremont CA. on a late

July Saturday we expanded our search east of Folsom. As we were driving up highway 50 just past Bass Lake road I looked up and saw a large building on the hill with a cross on top. Bored with looking at houses I told Dana whatever that is we have to go see it. So we got off at Cambridge, wound through what there was of Cameron Park at the time and found the road up the hill. When we came in the door to the church we were immediately taken in by the quiet, the beauty of the architecture and the magnificent crucifix that hangs above the altar. We decided we knew where we were going to Mass the next day. On Sunday we came to the 9 am Mass. It was overflowing with families with young children, friendly faces and Dana signed us up at the welcome table. A week or so later Joan Matson came to our corporate apartment to welcome us to the parish and show us all the ministries and ways we could participate. Needless to say we centered the house search on this parish. We've been at Holy Trinity for almost 16 years, developed lasting friendships and received countless blessings. Our 3 boys were baptized here, all 4 of our children attend/ed Holy Trinity school and Dana was received into the Church at the Easter vigil in 2008.

In 2011 when Dana was diagnosed with Lymphoma we were literally overwhelmed with an outpouring of support from this parish. In prayers, cards, notes, offers to help with the kids the impact was amazing. Again last fall when Dana had a minor recurrence we were once again overwhelmed with your support. Dana and I can't fully describe how much this parish has given to us in our time here. Next week as we fill out our stewardship renewal forms we ask you to prayerfully consider a little bit more than last year. We don't all have the same treasure, we don't have the same talents but we all have the same amount of time. And as you're filling out the forms remember David asked us to be like Millie, happy to greet each day, I ask you to also be like Dana look for the positive in little things, and know that whatever setback you may face, somebody has it worse.

We wish all the parishioners of Holy Trinity a holy and spiritually renewing Lenten season and look forward to a joy filled Easter and Easter season. May God Bless you all!

Brian and Dana