

Conversion and Witness Stories Can Help Deepen Faith

Headline: Have you ever had a Spiritual experience that has helped increase your faith? I have had instances where I am certain the Spirit was working in my life or a friend's life.

Objective: Sharing our spiritual encounters can help others in their spiritual journey and conversion to Christ. Often cast aside as "just a coincidence", do more mini-miracles happen in our day to day lives than we give credit? Are we open to experiencing these mini spiritual events? Do believing these stories convert our minds and souls a bit more? Do they make you more confident in your faith? That you are on the right track?

Song Suggestion: Day by Day – Oh dear Lord 3 things I pray, to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly – day by day.

Bible and Catechism Readings: –

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

Ezekiel 36:26

And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.

Catechism 1989

The first work of the grace of the Holy Spirit is conversion, effecting justification in accordance with Jesus' proclamation at the beginning of the Gospel: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Moved by grace, man turns toward God and away from sin, thus accepting forgiveness and righteousness from on high.

Catechism 2027

No one can merit the initial grace which is at the origin of conversion. Moved by the Holy Spirit, we can merit for ourselves and for others all the graces needed to attain eternal life, as well as necessary temporal goods.

Saint: The Church's saints were not canonized because they lived flawless lives. Many of them fell deeply—into addiction, violence, sexual sin, pride, greed, spiritual confusion, or despair. What makes them saints is not a perfect past, but a **radical openness to God's mercy**.

Scripture reminds us, *"Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more"* (**Romans 5:20**). The saints are living proof that this is not just theology—it is reality.

Their stories dismantle a common lie: that holiness is only for the morally consistent or spiritually strong. Instead, the saints show us something far more hopeful: **conversion is possible for anyone**.

St. Paul a prosecutor of Jews converted on the Road to Damascus, **St. Augustine of Hippo** who suffered of Sexual Addiction, Pride, and Control → Known for Surrender of the Will, **St. Ignatius of Loyola**, suffered from the sins of Vanity, Lustful Fantasy, and Ambition → found Interior Discipline.

Vignette: Bob considered himself a regular Catholic going through life but after reflecting on a few experiences while growing up and more recently, he realized the Holy Spirit has been active in his life all along the way. He had experiences that have bolstered his faith in the existence of life after death.

Story#1

A week before Bob's sister got married, Bob was lying in bed trying to get to sleep but could not. His sister the bride-to-be was in a room down the hall and he thought he heard her sniffing and crying. She got out of bed and went to the kitchen, so he decided to get up and see what was going on. Bob had turned 16 years old a few months before and his father had passed away a month before that. As Bob got out of bed, he put on his dad's robe which was one of the few things of his dad's that he was given to keep. As he entered the dimly lit kitchen he found his sister weeping by the sink. He asked her if she was alright. She said she thought she was visited by their father a few minutes ago. She said she could smell dad's cigarette smoke and their dad had told her that he was proud of his 4 kids and reassured her about the wedding. She said that she asked for a sign that this was real and really happening. Bob said to her "I don't know if this means anything but I'm wearing dad's robe". Experiences like this helped Bob realize that spirituality is very real and can be very near to us.

Story#2

Bob's fiancé was going through RCIA before their marriage. During the Pentecost service when the candidates were being confirmed, Bob was standing on the alter next to his fiancé's sponsor who was next to his fiancé. The priest initiated and prayer and then asked the congregation to extend their hands over the candidates and pray. During this more or less silent prayer, the fiancé's sponsor started speaking in tongues. It sounded like gibberish to Bob but he had a sense of being an observer of something special. Not an out of body experience but extraordinary.

Story #3

Scott-Vincent Borba, co-founder of e.l.f. Beauty a cosmetics firm, lived in Hollywood Hills, CA, owned Aston Martin and Maserati cars and was personally worth millions of dollars and seemingly had a life society tells us to strive for. In 2019 he was visited by Saint Michael the Archangel during a party at his newly renovated house. His conversion experience led him to donate his wealth and was ordained a priest in May of 2026.

Questions for Large and Small Group Discussion:

1. Have you had a spiritual experience that you care to share?
2. Are mini conversion stories (converting a person a little bit at time) or little miracles more effective than "big- bang" large scale-all-at-once conversion stories?
3. What does it take to help you believe?

Resources:

1. [E.L.F. Founder on Giving Up Fortune to Become a Priest \(Fr. Scott-Vincent Borba\) | Ep. 588](#)
Interview available on the Podcast *Pints with Aquinas* and on YouTube

Author: Chris Badylak