

### Appendix 3

#### Do you have a Personal Friendship with God?

*“There is nothing more beautiful than to be surprised by the Gospel, by the encounter with Christ. There is nothing more beautiful than to know Him and to speak to others of our friendship with Him.”* Pope Benedict XVI

Growing up, I always knew that Jesus loved me and wanted only the best for me and my life. I read this in the scriptures:

a. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life”* John 3:16

b. (Christ speaking) *“I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”*

John 10:10

I also knew that inside of me something was not right. Something was there that caused me to do things that I knew were not pleasing to God. The scriptures called this SIN.

I learned that this is an archery term that means “missing the mark.” The Bible tells us that we have all “missed the mark” in some way, keeping us from intimate union with God Who loves us so much.

a. *“all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God.”* Romans 3:23

b. *“For the wages of sin is death... (spiritual separation from God)* Romans 6:23

So how was I to get to the God Who loved me when I knew that it was my sin that kept us apart? God provided a way for me to have my sins wiped clean. His forgiveness provided a reliable pathway.

a. *“But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.”*  
*Romans 5:8*

b. *“For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.”* 1 Corinthians 15:3-5.

c. *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* John 14:6

d. *“For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.”* 2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus was the One that took my sin upon Himself and carried it away. He became the way to God, that bridge that closed the gap between us.

I realized that I must believe in Him so that He would do this for me. And I knew that I had to do as Saint John Paul II stated: *"Brothers and sisters, do not be afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power....Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ."* I had to open wide the doors of my heart to receive Him.

- a. *"But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name,"* John 1:12
  
- b. *"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me."* Revelation 3:20

How does this happen...? Through prayer.

I prayed a prayer like the one below. Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?

"Lord, I want to have a Friendship with You. I want to know You and Your Love and the things of You. I am sorry for my sins. Please take my sins away and forgive me. Come into my heart and make me the person You always intended for me to be. Help me to live the abundant life

You long for me to live with You. Thank You for hearing my prayer. Fill me with Your Spirit and give me your grace, mercy and love... now and forever.”

I ask this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

As Catholics, we believe that God calls us into a divine love story and His sacraments are like His kisses from heaven-- just for us. In order to live the fullness of the life He calls us to, He has made Himself present: At Baptism it all begins. Confirmation ratifies our calling. The Eucharist fulfills and perfects us. And Confession restores us when we fall shy of the mark. What gifts He gives us; all of Himself so that we may live fully this blessed life with Him.

Don't be afraid to throw open wide the doors to your heart and walk where Our Lord leads you.. Ask God to fill you more fully today with His Spirit to give you the grace to begin or deepen your friendship now.

If you are feeling called to the Catholic Church, hooray! I have found that it offers the most satisfying feast of LOVE. To get started, you can contact a local pastor, ask a Catholic friend, or contact me directly at [www.melissaovermyer.com/contact](http://www.melissaovermyer.com/contact). I'll be more than happy to point you in the right direction!