


The Hidden Treasures of my Faith

By: Cassie Flackey

As a sophomore in high school, some may say that society has defined me. Sex is good, drinking is fun, swearing is natural. Two years ago my life changed dramatically on a Catholic campus in the cities.

As a child, I was always considered the nice one, the quiet one, the Catholic one. I never truly believed it myself. I would try my best to live up to the halo they plopped on my head, but good never seemed good enough. Church always felt like an obligation that I didn't understand. Because of the way I was raised, I never saw the point in swearing or drinking. The parties that were on everyone's agenda never seemed to make it into my schedule. I was a good kid. I received good grades, I had nice friends, and my home life was great. I never thought that my life was right though. Something inside me felt empty.

In the summer before my freshman year of high school, I was encouraged by the youth minister at my church to attend the summer conference, Steubenville. Steubenville is a youth conference directed towards those who are trying to find their faith, lost somewhere in the middle, or carrying through and staying strong. I had heard of it before, of course, but it never seemed like an option that applied to me. The day before the trip, I began to get that excited glow about me. Some would say that the excitement was looking ahead at what was to come, but in reality, it was the people surrounding me that brightened my day. Nothing the speakers said really dug deep until adoration came Saturday night. Feelings of insecurity or self-consciousness went away at this moment. At the time, I did not understand what I was feeling. Coming home, I knew I had a flame burning deep within me. They said the hardest part would be trying to keep that flame lit in the secular society.



They were right. No one understood what I had just been through. I had found the hidden treasure within me. It took plenty of work, but right now I can actually say that I am an avid member of my church. I attend youth meetings, go to church every Sunday, and even teach a first grade religious education class on Wednesdays. I do these things because I want to, not because I have to. Praying is an everyday activity now and I do not think I could go a day without it. The friends I have made in the church since that first conference are people I can really count on. They help guide me in my faith and show me what God is capable of. My viewpoint of life has changed. I know God will always be with me, through thick and thin.

It's true that as a sophomore in high school, society should define me. The great thing is, it doesn't. My faith is what truly defines me.