

Be My WITNESS

Presented by RENEW International

Reflections on “Going Forth as Missionary Disciples: Bobby & Carol’s Story”

Bobby and Carol are examples of missionary disciples of Christ. Jesus invited a few of his followers to share in his mission, but after his resurrection the idea of discipleship grew to include all the baptized who made a commitment to live according to his teachings. Today, Christ still calls us to be his missionary disciples.

Carol had strong Catholic roots, but her divorce made her wonder if she could still be part of the parish family. She overcame her discomfort by helping others through the annulment process and using her skills as a counselor to start a parish ministry for people going through divorce.

Bobby was baptized a Catholic and was raised in the Baptist tradition, but he had never made an adult faith commitment to Christ. When he witnessed Carol’s missionary discipleship, he decided to go to Mass with her. Then he got involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and was confirmed in the Catholic Church.

As Bobby and Carol met more people in the parish they felt a sense of belonging. Then they joined a RENEW small group that allowed them to share their faith and experience love and support from other members. Carol continued to use her gifts as a counselor, working with special-needs kids and young pregnant women. Bobby’s small-group experience led him to look for ways to “give back to the community,” and he found one in helping runaway youths. This work, he says, allows him to “move into somebody else’s world. ... When I do that, and still feel good about myself, I know I am connected to the Body of Christ.”

Bobby and Carol’s stories challenge us to look at our own missionary discipleship. How do we live our faith? How are we using our gifts and talents? How do we witness to Christ? And where do we fit in the Body of Christ?

For more information on how to transform your parish into a center for missionary outreach visit www.bemywitness.org