SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

FOR

YVON ST MARC

Hello everyone. So many of us who are so blessed to be alive, live our lives by rote. We do what is expected of us, we dream, we plan, and if we’re very lucky and very blessed, our dreams and plans come true. There are some of us that are even more blessed to have the wisdom and the faith to really know our selves, understand the signs and symbols that cross our paths, and recognize the tireless work of the Lord in everything we do or have or accomplish. As I get older and study and meditate more about my faith, I realize that every emotion I feel and every adventure I’ve experienced makes me who I am today thanks to my devotion to the church and I am grateful for the tests I have endured and survived in life.

My destiny was to life a spiritual life. I was born on September 23, 1973 in Haiti. My father was an accomplished, active man and was a tremendous influence on my life both directly and indirectly. He was a deacon in the Episcopal Church, a professor, and a medical assistant. He did what was needed to keep our family happy, healthy and spiritually enriched. No matter how hard he had to work to keep us going, he always found time to help others. His life was devoted to family, faith and sharing whatever he could with those less fortunate. Somehow and some way, his faith provided him with generosity of spirit and of giving and he always found a way to help the impoverished by giving food, clothing and whatever was needed. In the spirit of Jesus, his charity knew no bounds. My mother was a housewife, but not just any housewife. From her I learned compassion, resilience, and how important it is to care for those you love. Our very earliest lessons command us to “honor thy father and thy mother,” and that is how I chose to devote my life. I was baptized on November 11, 1973 at St Croix Episcopal Church in my homeland, and although I was nothing more than a tiny baby, my spiritual journey began. I was confirmed on May 24, 1982. As I grew up, I was able to appreciate the chain of life and the connection we all have to our Lord. I was born, baptized and confirmed in church, and I realized as I matured, that just as Jesus was born on Christmas Day and died, he died to give us life and faith and a true feeling of brotherhood and humanity. I was blessed to have so much religious inspiration so early in my life and my father and mother also knew the importance of education and health and instilled those priorities in me at a very young age. As a young boy I attended Sunday school and learned the catechism to really get close to, and know God.

As I approached my eighteenth birthday, my father had taken ill and the family moved to the USA. This was one of the major stepping-stones in my life and the struggles I encountered brought me closer to my faith. I was only a young boy but I had to face the problems of a man. In Acts 16:31, we learn, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” My father was ill, we moved to a strange new country, and I had to learn how to use my faith to cope with these challenges. Sometimes when the challenges get to be almost too much to bear, I turn to God and find the strength to go on. I find solace and comfort in Isaiah 40:29, “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.”

Our family settled in Long Island and I attended Uniondale High School. I graduated in 1994 and went on to study criminology at SUNY Old Westbury and graduated with a Bachelor’s degree. I kept the scripture close to my heart and learned from Proverbs 4:13, “Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life.” I know I did the studying, but I thank God I did well in college! I kept my textbooks close and my Bible closer.

As I grew up, I became more and more involved in music. To me, music is the melody of faith and the sound of God. God is present everywhere, but with music in my heart and soul, his joy and inspiration resonate and come alive. I see myself closest to God when I see his reflection in the music I make and share with others. Psalms 95:1 “O come, let us sing unto the Lord: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.” I believe in sharing that joy and have dedicated myself to teaching music to the young people of our church. By sharing my joy of music and faith in our Lord with the next generations, I aim to keep His message and spirit alive.

My life has been an adventure. From being a young and naïve son of a deacon to winding up in a strange place in a strange land, having to learn a new language and way of life while caring for and worrying about my parents, inspired strength and courage within me. I rose to the challenge and supported my parents spiritually, as they supported me. Their love and devotion motivated me to do well in school and build a career, but the power of God and His presence in music is my overwhelming guide in life. Music makes me feel alive and brings me closer to God and closer to the people who share that with me. If I had to name three or four things that have made my life’s journey so important, it would be my mother, my wonderful father, whose closeness and inspiration has inspired me toward the ministry, my music, and my relationship with God. Knowing how I feel about those four life influences describes Yvon St. Marc: Family, Faith, Music, and God.

Thank you all.