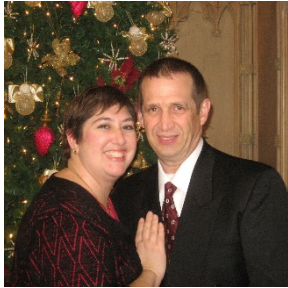


Member Testimony on Personal Accompaniment

By: Sara A. Blalock



Accompaniment. What a strange word! Yet, for our lives in the Regnum Christi Movement, this word has become more and more part of our regular language. What does it mean? I have prayed extensively about this topic. Recently, at a holy hour, the Lord gave me a beautiful, concrete image to share with others.

Imagine a singer, standing on an empty stage of a large music hall. The performance begins with a clear voice singing--a capella. The sound of his voice echoes strangely around the gallery. Suddenly, from the orchestra pit, you hear a faint sound of a piano carrying the simple melody. A few moments later you hear the drums, adding to the beat. The singer continues his song, becoming stronger, bolder. One by one, more instruments are added to the sound until a full orchestra is playing. Is the song the same? Yes. What does the accompaniment do to the tune? The song fills our senses and awakes our soul to a rich depth we did not know was there. Perhaps, we didn't even know we needed this awaking in our soul until we experienced it.

Regnum Christi has been one of the most beautiful gifts in my life. I joined the Movement in October 2007. At the time, I had been praying for five years about a need to have a community. I desired a group of people who were in a similar state of life and desired to be active in the Church. My friend Michelle, who was really an acquaintance at the time, invited me to a discernment course that ultimately lead to my incorporation. Her sanguine personality and zeal for Christ attracts people like a light attracts moths. I thought, if there are other women like Michelle in this group, perhaps I needed to be part of it.

My friendship with Michelle is filled with story after story of accompaniment, times when we have walked together though hardship, prayed each other through our trials, and celebrated our joys. About six months after I joined the Movement, my husband and I found we were expecting our third child. Michelle and I had plans to attend a wrap up event after a big Pure Fashion Show. That day, I started experiencing some complications to my pregnancy. Michelle came over, loaded my children and me into her van with her 4 children and drove me to the hospital. She fed my children and led a rosary in the car while I had a sonogram. My personal chauffer not only cared for me when I was unwell, she comforted me and cheered me up when I was placed on bed rest for a week after miscarrying the baby. Michelle's words of hope, caring actions, and love of Christ penetrated my sorrowful heart.

Why is accompaniment important to our life as Regnum Christi members? I think accompaniment is a characteristic of a Christian community. Regnum Christi members

understand and recognize that family is not limited to our biological family. Accompaniment flows from being a spiritual family.

Michelle is my sister in Christ. We have held hands through many stages of life. Together, we encourage each other to continue to fight for Christ and move forward in our missions. This reciprocity strengthens us to continue. Our friendship is the seed from which many fruits have blossomed. When carefully examined, the root of accompaniment--these special friendships--is love.