



Thank you!

"Through Women of Grace,
I found Mary, I found myself,
I found my purpose, and I found
a beautiful sisterhood that supports,
loves, and prays for each other."

— Sue W.



Before Women of Grace, I was...

I was raised Southern Baptist. When I met my husband 13 years ago, and I found out he was Catholic, I said, “That’s it—I will never become a Catholic, nor will I marry a Catholic Man.” I even declared to my mother-in-law that I would NEVER pray the Rosary, to which she replied, “Oh Honey, don't worry about it. Someday, you will.” Well, as you can guess, God had other plans for me. Not only did I marry that very devout Catholic man, but I also became a rosary-praying Catholic. The quiet witness of my husband and my mother-in-law’s deep devotion to the Rosary ignited my Catholic faith.

Several years after becoming Catholic, I wondered how I fit into the faith and searched for my meaning and purpose as a Catholic woman. One Sunday after mass, I signed up for the Women of Grace Study Program. It was the beginning of a journey that changed my life forever.

Through Women of Grace, Jesus did...

I started the study and loved it. The chapter on forgiveness stirred something in me that had been buried deep for 45 years. It helped me to see that my lack of forgiveness toward the person who molested me when I was nine years old had made me hateful and bitter.

The same year I took the study, I had an opportunity to attend one of Johnnette's healing retreats. As I listened to so many women tell their stories, I realized I wasn't alone. I cried all the way home from that retreat and told God that if He was asking me to forgive the person who had hurt me, I was going to need His help. I applied what I learned in the study about receptivity, trust, and surrender. I knew I had to be open to forgive and trust Jesus to see me through this and then surrender all my hurts to him. He delivered me in many ways.

The healing I experienced through the study and retreat prepared me to give my fiat when Regional Coordinator Martha Nicolli asked me to co-facilitate the study with her. I accepted the call and have been facilitating for the past eight years, each time learning as much as the women I lead.

Because of Women of Grace, I am...

Through the many healing resources and events available through Women of Grace, I was finally able to let go of all those negative feelings. After three years of praying and wrestling with the right thing to do, I went to the cemetery and found the strength to kneel and pray at the grave of the person who had molested me and tell him I forgave him. I hung a Rosary on his headstone and left unburdened. Two years later, I returned and saw the beads scattered next to a medal of Our Blessed Mother. I realized that Jesus had given me His Mother to walk with me, pick up the pieces of my life, and heal my brokenness. Through Women of Grace, I found Mary, I found myself, I found my purpose, and I found a beautiful sisterhood that supports, loves, and prays for each other. I can't thank Johnnette enough because without Women of Grace, I'm not sure where I'd be. Today, I am free.

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