

About Anna Tognaci, B.S.N., R.N.

Our Speakers



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Anna Tognaci was born a Catholic, raised a Catholic, living a Catholic life! Born and raised on the Waianae coast with both parents being Catholic, I had always known the presence of Jesus and Mary. It was very customary coming home and finding a Priest sitting at our kitchen table talking story with my family. When I was a teenager, I assisted the Catechist at my home parish, Sacred Heart Church Waianae, teaching religious education. I also attended weekly bible studies with the Church community.

Throughout my school years, I have always participated in public speaking. At a very early age, I found myself very accustomed to public speaking which extended throughout my college years. In my adult life, I wandered away from being a practicing Catholic. And, like in the story of the Prodigal Son, I squandered my time and attended Church only on occasion. My heart remained Catholic, but my actions were less than Catholic.

A turning point for me, started when a friend of mine invited me to her church. The people were very friendly, they greeted me with open arms, until they found out I was Catholic. Then suddenly, like I had developed Leprosy, one lady posed a question, "How and why, I worshiped Mary?". To my surprise, I did not know exactly how to answer her, but I knew intuitively that I must defend my spiritual Mother, so I replied, "I don't worship Mary, I worship God, but I love Mary very much". She surprisingly repelled at my answer.

But, it was then, that Mary Mother of God, brought me closer to Her mantle. I went into nursing school because the life of Florence Nightingale and Mother Teresa so inspired me, and I always had a genuine wanting to help people. As a child growing up, my parents watched Saint movies often, and I so longed to imitate them. Though, in my life I fall short many times, it is how St. Paul once wrote, "What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate." Romans 7:15. In present day, I am a wife, whose spouse was also raised Catholic, and a mother of three beautiful children.

My faith journey includes, a Lector, a Catechist, and a Respect Life Coordinator at Sacred Heart Waianae. I facilitated the St. Michael's Apologetics course at my parish and I am part of the 3rd order of Mary and the Legion of Mary. Currently, I am exactly where I want to be, in the palm of God's hands, who constantly molds me. If not for the grace of God...there go I. My Love for the Blessed Mother has only gotten stronger. There is no jealousy in Heaven! Praised be Jesus & Mary!

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