

### The Upper Room

#### ***EXPERIENCES AND REFLECTIONS ON WHY I GO TO CHURCH***

I go to Church because I love the Lord and I want to spend such precious time with Him. Also, I am a Catholic, and it's one of my commitments to attend Mass, especially on a Sunday.

Being in the Church and being in the presence of the Holy Eucharist gives me peace of mind, body and spirit. I look forward to going to Church because firstly, I am drawn to my Church. For me, there is a different kind of joy when I am inside the holy house of God. Everything I need and want is in there. There is serenity and calmness. Also, I really like how the churchgoers in our Parish are friendly and welcoming. It does matter a lot. It gives me the feeling that I am accepted as I am.

I am a Lector and that makes me want to go to Church even more because I get to serve my God in my own little and special way. I know He appreciates any service I render to Him.

I am happy that my own family has ODS Church that we love attending and a Parish community that we belong to.

All for God's greater glory!

***by Marie Louise Coscolluela, Pastoral Council member, and Lector***



I go to Church every Saturday to spend time with God and listen to His words. There are times in a week when I feel down or something is not going my way, I would always look forward to going to Church because it's a place where I can feel calm. Whenever I enter through the door, I can feel my problems and frustrations leave my body. I feel an overwhelming sense of peace and a place where I won't have to worry about anything. I feel safe and secure. Another reason is since I was born in a Catholic household, I always believed that church is where you could talk to God the closest. I could feel His presence every time I went and served Him.

Through the readings and words of the priest during his sermon, I could feel the Lord explain His message to me and the congregation for the day. When the Consecrated Host and the Cup of Precious Blood are elevated, I can feel a sense of glorious presence and when I receive the Body of Christ, I feel satisfied and happy. God's presence satisfies my soul and takes away my problems and struggles.

***by Gabriel Coscolluela, Pastoral Council member for Youth/Young Adult Representative, and Altar Server***