

Flo Gandolfi

- Parishioner at St. B's—all my life
- Born & raised in San Diego—grew up in LJ; raised family in PB
- Widowed, 4 kids (Mike, Anna, Terri, and David), 3 grandkids (James, Gabriel and Dominic)
- Recently retired



What brought you to St. B's?

I've been part of St. B's almost my whole life. Although I grew up in La Jolla and had my first communion at Mary, Star of the Sea, I was one of the first people ever to be baptized here at St. B's. I went to San Diego City College where I met Pat; we got married at All Hallows and raised our four children in PB. After the kids were grown, we moved to



My Baptism at St. B's

Montebello for 11 years where I was a counselor working with school kids and Latino men regarding domestic violence.

Why do you stay?

The people—I wouldn't ever think of leaving. My husband Pat died four years ago and after that my daughter Terri (who passed away from cancer last January) encouraged me to join the St. B's bereavement group. Also losing my father as a child was horrible, and I watched my mother grieve alone but luckily I didn't have to. This community has been really good to me and provided me moral support during Terri's sickness and still today.



Flo, Pat & their 4 kids

Who has influenced your faith journey?

My father because he was a convert and died soon after making his first sacraments. He and I made our first communion together when I was a child. That day my mother invited over the whole 1st communion class. Three other adults received their sacraments that day along with my father. Later that same year, my father died suddenly of a heart attack.



My dad (middle)—1st Comm

What spiritual experiences have influenced your faith journey?

Cursillo—I had heard a lot about it and was interested to be a part of it. Recently I went to the Philippines with my grandson Dominic and his other grandmother. While we were at Mass, there was a typhoon warning. As I began to worry, I was amazed by how calm everyone else was.

What is your favorite type of prayer?

The rosary. When I fly I pray the rosary using my fingers on one hand as beads—going forwards and backwards to represent a decade (fun way to pray).

How do you show God's love through service?

At St. B's, I'm a Eucharistic Minister. I also love to meet new people at St. B's after Mass. Pat and I have always been involved with the Elks Club—I recently served a meal at the VA hospital with the Elks and am looking at doing more.