



The Word Becomes Flesh

By Fanny Pedraza

As a child, I do not recall my parents reading the Bible or participating in prayer groups or Bible studies. I never heard them quote Scripture when they disciplined me, offered me support, or instructed me. Yet somehow they instilled in me a sensitivity to the Word of God.

Throughout my Catholic education my teachers did quote the Bible, but I cannot say that I read it frequently, nor consulted it, or that it was part of my prayer life. Yet somehow the Word of God was something that I revered and tried to obey.

When I grew up and became a wife and a mother, I searched for spiritual nourishment in Scripture through Bible study groups and through self-reflection. I started paying attention to God's Word with a more open heart during homilies at Mass. Over time I realized that the lessons my parents taught me, their expressions of love, and the advice they gave me, were based on God's Word found in Scripture. God was the source of their wisdom. I realized that my parents were the Word *made flesh* in my life.

Seeking Direction

At times, I go to his Word seeking direction, especially when I feel that I am sailing aimlessly or facing gigantic waves that almost paralyze me with fear. I have learned that the Word of God is not a pill that instantly solves my problems. Rather, his Word is

food that gradually energizes and strengthens me. His Word supplies my soul with the necessary nutrients to live a holy life. Today, God's Word is part of my daily meal.

Because my parents embodied God's Word, they were able to discern the best way to raise their children. When his Word takes flesh in me, I feel the Holy Spirit working in and through me as I teach my children to walk in the ways of our Lord. The Word transforms me, and those with whom I share my Catholic life—without needing to quote a chapter or verse. When we are Christ to one another, the Word becomes flesh in us.

Just as my parents became the first Bible that I ever read, I wonder if I may be the only Bible that others will read.

Read, reflect and respond to the following questions:

- ▶ How does the Word take flesh in me?
- ▶ Which of my words, gestures or actions are the same as Christ's?
- ▶ Do my children see Christ and feel God's love when I instruct, affirm or discipline them?


Take time to:

Enthroned the Bible in your home with a simple ritual. Read, meditate and then share with your family the following Bible verses: Isaiah 55: 10-11; Matthew 4: 4; John 1: 14.

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