

2024

Grade 6

I remember a special time that Jesus was with me. This special time was when my sister was in the hospital for a surgery. My sister has had spina bifida since she was born. Spina bifida is a condition where the spine is crooked and sometimes it causes some parts in your body to stop working. My sister needed a wheelchair because she is unable to walk. She can talk but she talks a little differently because of the way her spine bends.

Last spring my sister needed a serious surgery. This surgery would make her back a little stronger and would make her sit upright. Everyone in my family was very nervous. We knew that it might not work to fix the problem. We also knew that, as with any surgery, the person under anesthesia might not wake up. This was the time I felt Jesus with me because I felt sad and alone. I was trying to be positive, but I could not help but think something could happen. If something bad did happen, then I would really be alone because she shares a room with me, and I would be sleeping by myself and would lose my best friend.

That is when I began to pray. I asked Jesus for protection over my sister, and to protect me until she got back. This is when I felt him. I was having a rough time going to sleep without her there, and I was worried, but the night of the surgery, I heard this little voice. The little voice was telling me everything would be all right. And I would no longer be alone. That one night I finally fell asleep feeling safe. My sister came home the next day, with a present because it was my birthday, and I loved the present and I love her just the way she is.

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A Year with Christ

I'm in sixth grade, I'm homeschooled in a Catholic family where faith is dominant in our life, and I attend the Youth Group at St. Clare of Assisi. Over this past year, the thought of confirmation has grown in my heart, and I have begun to yearn for it more day by day; however, I must wait two more years. I have so many memories where our Lord has touched my soul. Throughout 2023, I started Bible in a Year with Fr. Mike Schmitz. I have found that I *need* this morning prayer to start the day off well and be who Christ has called me to be. I love this hour in the morning, it is something I look forward to every night.

Although God is in my life every day, there are two moments this past year where He spoke to me very clearly. The first occurred on December 11, 2023. My mom and I were going to an Advent Holy Hour with the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus. A sister with a white veil, a Novice, entered to light the candles and I watched her intently. Throughout the Holy Hour, I felt an intense call to the Carmelites. The second moment happened the very next week, December 18th, when I went back for the next Holy Hour with my brother Joseph. As I pondered over the light of Christ in the sisters, I closed my eyes to pray. Immediately, my mind was emptied, and I pictured the image of the Divine Mercy. Our Savior reached out His hand and said, "Come, follow me." After the Holy Hour, I met some of the sisters and asked to meet the Novice that had struck me. She came out and I was speechless. When I was able to talk, I told her about the strong calling that I had felt when I saw her. We talked until she receded with the other sisters into the Chapel to pray Compline. The joy I felt was unsurmountable. While these profound moments are embedded in my young mind, our Heavenly Father is with us all the time, and I look forward to the years to come as my life of faith will only grow.