

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
August 27-28, 2016

Witness: Molly Clavenna

One evening at middle school youth group here at St. Patrick's, we were led in a candlelit procession from the parish hall to the church and entered into a time of adoration of Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. In that moment, I found stillness and quiet, but most importantly I was able to sit in the back of the church and simply gaze up at the Eucharist and realized for the first time that this was truly Christ present in the flesh before me. What **peace** I encountered that day!

In 8th grade at St Pats's school, we were asked what we wanted to be when we grew up. I went to write down my interest at the time, to be a brain surgeon, but suddenly the word "**missionary**" came into my heart & thought... I didn't know what this word meant, but I knew the **peace** in my heart was worth sharing with my graduating class and so I chose to write it down.

This peace, the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and a missionary spirituality have taken me down a windy road of discovering love for service in youth ministry especially in retreats, missionary opportunities at summer Camp Wojtyla and Lifeteen camps.

Now I'm a FSU alumna (with religion and international affairs majors) going into a full year of Lifeteen missions to be formed as a missionary disciple to help lead teens closer to Christ (youth ministry). What joy this has brought me, to be able to see Jesus working in my heart and in my life since the start!

I'm here today because St. Patrick's has been a place where I've encountered Christ, and what a joy it is to come back and share this with you! With that, I would love to extend to you a personal invitation.

If you are a teen, I challenge you to be bold and give Jesus a chance, in choosing and committing to a regular prayer routine and a great community like youth group here at St. Pat's to encourage you in that. If you have a teen, encourage them to find a Christ-centered community! It changed my life and I would 10/10 recommend it. Lastly, I invite you, teen or not teen, to come speak with me after Mass. I'd love to meet you and share with you more about my upcoming mission year! Thank you, and may God grant you the peace and joy He has abundantly shared with me.