

Statement of Faith

Ava Leger

As a young girl, I always knew that I was God’s child without a shadow of a doubt. After going through my 3DS a few weeks ago, I came across many old videos where I would talk about Jesus and his love for me. Many of the videos came to a close with a prayer. At my grandma's house, there are hand drawn pictures of Jesus and I, along with prayers and stories I made up. As I got older, I lost touch with my faith and ultimately began to believe that God didn’t love me, or that he may not have existed at all. In response to these feelings, I started to turn to people to bear my problems and I put my faith into people who didn’t treat me kindly and had no business holding that power over me. At this point, Christ was almost completely off my mind. This was how my life looked up until about a year ago when what felt like the worst thing that could happen at that time, happened. Though this specific event bruised me, it made me realize that I couldn’t bear my problems alone, and I began to turn back to my faith. At this moment in my life, I feel so incredibly close to Christ; more than I ever have before. Now, he helps me by giving me hope that there will be a better tomorrow, even if today really sucks (Romans 8:18!). I may not have complete control over my life and people come and go, but God has always stayed with me. And that is more helpful than I can even begin to put into words. I believe that no matter where my life takes me, whether that be here at home, or 307 miles away in Marquette, MI for school, I will always have Jesus and my faith with me forever.

Pastor Paul: I prefer Ava’s Statement of Faith the the traditional creeds. Instead of being a list of supposed eternal truths that one is supposed to believe in, Ava’s statement is the story of her eternal *relationship* with God, one that changes throughout her life. The only thing that doesn’t change is God’s unconditional love for her — even on the days that suck! (My favorite part of her statement:

“Now, he helps me by giving me hope that there will be a better tomorrow, even if today really sucks (Romans 8:18!)”).

One of those amazing God-coincidences:

- Ava chooses her confirmation verse, Romans 8:18
- We schedule her Confirmation, Pentecost, May 19, 2024
- We realize that the Second Reading assigned for that day is Romans 8:22-27, so we add vv. 8:18-21 to the reading

Romans 8:20-21 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:37-39 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ava’s Statement of Faith shares St. Paul’s confidence that nothing can ever separate us from God’s unconditional love in Jesus Christ — and promised to her and each of us through the Holy Spirit at baptism!