

Reflections from Members Taking Next Steps



Steve & Mariann Rossi

45 years ago Steve and I took a leap of faith and married each other. Life took off as it often does and decisions were made or deferred, truth be told. We relied upon the Holy Spirit to guide us. There were so many times we just knew His answer. We were blessed with four children, blessed now with eight grandchildren. We became the elders of the family (how on earth did that happen?) and have most definitely entered a different time in our lives. Life's journey continues with life's demands sometimes taking over. The road now has lots of entrances and exits, but fewer directions.

Voluntas Dei's way of living was the Holy Spirit's way of dropping directions into our lives via Tony Ciorra, our dear long-time friend. When Tony invited us to a meeting, we had no idea what Voluntas was about. Needless to say, one team meeting led to another and the group we meet with monthly was so endearing and knowledgeable that the gathering has become a very special part of life for us. Yet when the time came to commit to Voluntas, honestly we hesitated. Considering more structure and rules was part of it, but honestly it became about our worthiness. We opened up to Voluntas' way of acceptance and prayer. "Doing the will of God through Mary Immaculate" was clear direction. Absence of complaint and absence of criticism was clear direction (and not easy!). Walking this earthly road with Jesus is so much more comfortable than trying it without Him.

Steve and I decided to aspire to Voluntas' way of living, living the will of God. Our journey to Aspirancy has just begun. Oh boy, do we ever rely upon the Holy Spirit to make the road signs visible. We are going forward, one foot in front of the other, holding spiritual hands with our Voluntas family, asking the Blessed Mother to help us to do God's will. Please pray for us as we pray for all of you.

Peace and joy to all of you,

Steve & Mariann