

As you wandered away following your own selfish desires, he never changed: his arms stayed outstretched on the cross to welcome you back.

But, there was something missing: “When I look back – I was never satisfied with any of these girls...I **concluded that the only perfect ‘spouse’ for me...was Jesus Christ.**” Notice that you did not reach this conclusion in an intellectual analysis only – but in your inner being there was an **“intuitive sense”** that this was true. And it was strong enough to lead you to take the bold action to step forward as a lay volunteer.

There in the chapel of the Cathedral...”I began to cry...I was overcome with **fear** and sadness over the fact I had to leave my mom and dad, my family and friends, my dog, my house...” Then: **“I can’t do this, I’ll just die.”**

Then, “I heard a voice, a vocal voice, **“Die for me and I will give you life.”** “My eyes came to rest on the crucifix that was hanging above the tabernacle. **The anxiety, fear, sadness ...were gone.**”

“I was filled with **peace and calm.**”

**“My MANTRA in rough times has been, ‘Die for me and I will give you life.’”**

Let’s connect a few dots: the good Lord - the Lord of the universe has been **courting you! You recognized it earlier on when you knew “in your gut” that no girl will ever be able to satisfy you. Jesus is calling you to a SPOUSAL RELATIONSHIP with him.** Remember the old saying, “Two’s a couple, three’s a crowd?” That holds true in this spousal relationship too. **It is an exclusive bond between you and the Lord Jesus. His wishes, his desires become your wishes, your desires. AND THERE WILL BE AN ABIDING PEACE AND JOY despite trials and temptations.**

You now know **experientially** 1) you have been blessed and surrounded by love all your life, beginning with your family. 2) You know **beyond any doubt that God himself loves you: his love has been without end – he has forgiven you, wiped the slate clean, and in response, you have responded in love – the call to serve Jesus in the poor. “What shall I return to the Lord for all he has done for me?” (The psalms).**