

My name is Jack Lydon Jackie and I have been members here for about 35 years. Pre renovation. I am going to have a little history lesson concerning my involvement. My paternal grandparents were married here in June 1901. My father went to school here. My aunt was the housekeeper here in the late 50's and early 60's.

I served Mass here before school started while I was a student at St. X. which at the time was located at second and Broadway. I sometime helped my aunt Mary pass cheese sandwiches out the backdoor of the rectory to the homeless and hungry pretty much white bread and Velveeta cheese. The daily lunch program has come a long way.

Fast forward to the mid-80s. One Sunday evening after having run the Louisville marathon and not having been to mass and knowing there was a 5:30 liturgy here I came to church and as they say the rest is history. The music was great, the homily was good and the liturgy was excellent. I went home told Jackie and we started coming to 5:30 mass on a regular basis, with our daughter Sarah who was a student at a local parish school. It was pretty easy to get involved back then there was not the same structure as today. I signed up as a lector and minister of the Eucharist and also as a server.

We got involved with social concerns and one of our commitments was serving baloney sandwiches once a month on Saturday. We made the sandwiches in the back of the rectory and handed them out, with a dessert and drink from the front door of the rectory everybody got two sandwiches. There was a method to sandwich making, bread baloney bread bread baloney bread.

Two of our children were married here, five grandchildren Baptized here and a grandson buried from here. We have been a sponsor couple for engaged couples. The bride of the first couple we worked with called off the marriage. Figured we did something really wrong but Father Knott said we did well. So we continued with the mission. One of our success stories has been a member of the Cathedral singers for a number of years Mark Meade who along with the rest of the group helps us celebrate and pray every Sunday night.

I was involved for a number of years with the RCIA program and sponsored a number of candidates. My major claim to fame there though I know I had very little to do with it is Dave Puckett, Guru of the cathedral computers and all around good person.

I was involved with the start of our Sister Parish program in Jeremie, Haiti. Five of us traveled to Haiti to meet the Pastor and parishioners of St. Louis Cathedral, a relationship we still cherish. Our primary purpose is to provide funds for the lunch program the only meal of the day for many on the children. We did provide for the school to have safe drinking water by installing a water purification system for drinking and cooking water. This was one of the few sources of water available following the

recent hurricane that devastated so much of Haiti. This project led to Gary Boice who managed the water project creating a nonprofit, Tek 4 Kids. That has provided water for a number of other schools in the area as well as a technical school to teach computer skills to local students to give them skills when they seek employment. Members of our committee, namely Dave Puckett and Don Kavanaugh were involved in the early stages of the work involved in getting the computer program started. We have also provided a white board with many programs to help the teachers at St. Theresa Montessori School provide lessons to the students. This is an ongoing mission that depends on the generosity of Our Cathedral parishioners' part of our outreach and treasure. If you are not familiar with the giving aspect please call the office or see me after Mass. Check on the green envelopes.

I still lector and serve at mass both things I love doing it helps my spiritual life and makes me feel good to be able to be of a minor assistance at mass. Part of my time and talent. I volunteer in the Kitchen on Friday and also help with our ID program. Unless you have never had an ID you cannot imagine the things you cannot do. From gaining access to the federal building, to applying for a job. To receiving vital services available to the poor and homeless.

Through all these things I have been involved in I have felt the love and support of the Cathedral parishioners. Ever since that first time at 5:30 Mass those many years ago this has been our church family. While we may not know the names of everybody here we come together to celebrate Eucharist and each other. The faces may change but the spirit is always there.

Our time talent and treasure flows from whom we are and our relationship with each other.