

1. Your search: In the years/months prior to finding the Church of the Beloved, regarding your spirituality, church community and religious experience: What was happening in your heart? What were you thinking? Spiritually? Emotionally? Intellectually?

Since my Confirmation, just a year ago, I was feeling lost, as if I hadn't found my home yet, traveling church-to-church, searching. I knew God was with me, but I strongly desired a community with which to embrace Him. After reconnecting with a dear friend, both of us struggling with our own lives, she brought me to COB—a place I now call home.

2. Your finding: How did you first learn of Church of the Beloved (or the ECC)? What finally prompted you to attend Mass? Tell us about your first experience and your response to it.

My friend brought me to COB the first time. I was nervous, as I always am, to enter a new church. Walking through those doors—immediately embraced by a curly-gray haired man with a mint and I felt myself calm. Tears streamed down my cheeks throughout Mass, I was warmed and overwhelmed all at once. A positive experience that I had not experienced anywhere previously. Ever since, I look forward to Mass and other COB activities. I feel blessed to be a part of this community.

3. Your staying: Share why you keep coming back.

I love the community at COB. Walking through those doors is wonderful—especially when welcomed with smiles and hugs, and people who actually know my name.