

Ana Ramos

Part 1: Life Before (Brief)

Before Alpha, I considered myself a practicing Catholic. I attended Mass, prayed, and wanted to grow closer to God, but I knew there was so much more to learn about my faith. When I heard about Alpha, I felt a quiet invitation to sign up. I wasn't searching for something specific, I simply wanted to deepen my relationship with Christ. I came with an open heart, not really knowing what to expect, but trusting that God was inviting me to be there.

Part 2: The Turning Point

The turning point for me was the Holy Spirit retreat. It was a truly life-changing experience. Before Alpha, I knew about the Holy Spirit, but during the retreat I experienced His presence in a much more personal way. It wasn't just learning about the Holy Spirit anymore, it became an encounter that changed my heart.

That experience gave me a new understanding of how the Holy Spirit is constantly working in our lives, gently calling us closer to Christ and inviting us to trust Him. It also helped me connect many aspects of my Catholic faith that I hadn't fully understood before. I left the retreat with a deep sense of peace and a desire to listen more closely to where God was leading me.

Part 3: Life Now

Since Alpha, my relationship with God has become much more intentional. One of the clearest fruits of that retreat was recognizing God's call to serve. After Alpha, I discerned that the Holy Spirit was calling me to serve as a Eucharistic Minister. What made that even more meaningful was that the very next day at Mass, I heard an announcement that my church needed more Eucharistic Ministers. For me, it felt like God was confirming the call He had already placed on my heart.

That experience gave me the confidence to say "yes" to serving, and it also planted a desire in my heart to one day minister to those who are incarcerated, bringing Christ's love, hope, and the Holy Eucharist to people who may feel forgotten.

Another incredible blessing has been the friendships. I walked into Alpha not knowing anyone at my table, and I walked out with a table full of friends. We laughed together, we cried together, we shared our questions, encouraged one another, and grew together in our love for Christ and His Church. None of us knew what we were signing up for, but we all felt called to register. Looking back, I don't think that was a coincidence, I believe the Holy Spirit brought us together for a reason.

Alpha reminded me that faith is a lifelong journey. No matter how much we know, there is always more to discover about God's love. It strengthened my relationship with Christ, gave me a greater appreciation for the Holy Spirit's work in my life, and inspired me not only to grow in faith but to put that faith into action through service. For that, I will always be thankful.

I am so grateful that I said 'yes' to Alpha, because through it, God transformed my heart in ways I never expected. To Him be all the glory.