

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

—1 Corinthians 12:12-13

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

I lost a great deal becoming the person that God has wonderfully created me to be. In the months that followed my coming out and social transition as a transgender person, I lost nearly everything. I entered a state of vulnerability unlike anything I had ever experienced, becoming absolutely reliant on the generosity and goodness of total strangers because I was literally unable to do it myself.

Many people helped me navigate this part of my journey. A friend invited me to attend her downtown parish. I've been there ever since because of their acceptance. One Sunday, as we passed the peace, a total stranger reached out, shook my hand and left a \$20 bill in my palm. They will never know that because of their generosity, I was able to purchase groceries that very afternoon. I would not have had this powerful transformative experience if not for my friend's invitation to participate in a community that was open and hospitable toward me. I pray that my presence in their midst has enabled others in the parish to be transformed as much as they have transformed me. Together in our vulnerability and generosity, we can be agents of transformation for the whole world.

—Gwen Fry