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Serra Club of St. Louis Vocations Essay Contest

My Walk with God

On February 20, 2013, the Holy Spirit led me to Cardinal Glennon's Costas Cancer Center where I was diagnosed with a mixed germ cell, malignant brain teratoma wrapped around the pituitary gland. After a 12-hour brain surgery, 7 months of Chemotherapy and 30 radiation treatments, I am now Cancer free! As a terrified, six year-old boy, I learned that God is always with me - even in times of deep darkness.

During multiple scary treatments, God talked to me in my heart and always said, "You can do this." God does not ask you to do something you cannot do. I now know he wanted me to survive. He knows what is best for us all the time. I always found comfort knowing that someone was always with me and leading the way.

Undergoing brain cancer treatment deepened my faith because, sadly, it was the only certain thing I had left. I had no certainty in my path, I knew that this is just what was chosen for me. Reflecting back, I never questioned why this was happening to me because it just was and is.

In God's unexpectedly way, God crossed my path with Matt Holiday and many others which allowed me to give back and share hope with others going through difficult times. I donate my time to raise money and awareness for childhood cancer organizations. For several years, I donated my birthday gifts back to the children of Cardinal Glennon. I accepted the invitation to be the speaker for Homers for Health first annual event.