

Hello all, I'm Abby! I'm the secretary here at St. John's and have loved being welcomed into your St. John's family ever since I started back in October. I was delighted to find out that council picked me to be the spotlight of the month for August and I'm excited to share a little bit more about myself with you! I always find it difficult to write about myself, and I think most people are in the same boat. We always tend to introduce ourselves with things like what school we went to or what job we have, what clubs or community organizations we are a part of, and the hobbies we dabble in with our free time. Don't get me wrong, I totally have those things in my life and LOVE talking about them, you'll have to stop by the office to hear them. But I think by introducing myself with those things perpetuates the idea that people are best defined by what they are doing. People are always expected to be "doing" something. I believe that there is so much more to a person than what is defined by "do". So here is just a little bit about---me.

I love stories. Stories are a driving force in a lot of what I am passionate about. I love listening to stories, especially about my parents. Hearing my parents talk about their childhoods, growing up, raising children, and getting to be where they are today is one of my favorite things to do. As the youngest of three, I can relate to my mom when she talks about how she had to learn how to keep up with her two crazy older siblings (I know where I get that from.) And my dad always seemed to be getting into some sort of trouble, even when he wasn't looking for it (I know where I get that from too...) Listening to my parents always teaches me so much about myself that I otherwise wouldn't have ever guessed. Family means everything to me. I am blessed to be best friends with my older sister and brother (and when my sister got married, my brother-in-law.)

I see God most easily in nature. Spending time outdoors is a necessity for me and it's one way, probably the most important way I get in touch with my faith. I drive around for hours looking for new places to hike, sketch, and journal about. I am also notorious for going on nature walks in the less-than-ideal conditions. One time I made plans to hike with my friend after he was done at work (conveniently he worked at a nature preserve.) The day came and it was cool and rainy and grey the whole day but since he was working I couldn't check to see if we wanted to change our plans. So on schedule, I arrived at 5pm under a pavilion that led to the trails. He walked over to me and said "I was going to ask you if you were still up for this but..." He glanced down at my big rubber rain boots, scanned up to my rain jacket and lifted his chin up towards my white frilly umbrella, and he continued "...which trail do you want to start on?" Rain, shine, wind, and yes--even snow--are the perfect weather conditions for me to connect to nature, and to my faith. We walked for a good few hours, and just chatted about anything and everything. On that day, that walk was my church.

Ummm, okay, let's see what else. My favorite color is yellow, favorite animal is a Red Panda (followed closely by Goats, Pangolins, and Rhinos), my biggest fear is tornadoes which is the reason I won't visit my best friend who lives in Kansas. Yea, that sounds good. As bad as I am at beginning to write things my endings are even less graceful. You are always welcome in the office, and I am more than happy to chat with you all and get to know you better.

Love always, Abby.