

# Our Pilgrim Stories



## MACK TRUCK

**It was 1954. Six-year-old Carolyn Kintz (now Horner) was a happy-go-lucky precocious little girl living in Akron, Ohio, with her devout church-going Roman Catholic family. According to Carolyn, while all seemed to be going well for the Kintz family, God decided they needed a wakeup call — something to stir their faith, an adversity to overcome, a challenge to make them determined, and a reason to rely on God even more than they already did. God chose Carolyn as the vehicle for that transformation.**

**As the story goes, her eight-year-old sister was in charge of her one day as they walked home. What six-year-old wants to listen to her eight-year-old sister? So, when Carolyn got to the street corner and was about to cross to catch up with friends who already made it to the other side, her older and wiser sister told her to stop and wait until the traffic passed. Carolyn just knew she could make it across, so she took off running anyway. Her sister was right. She didn't make it. She literally was hit by a Mack Truck. Fortunately, the truck only ran over the toes of her left foot. However, the accident and complications that ensued resulted in the amputation of her left leg just below the knee.**

**Her mother did not let the loss of her leg deter Carolyn from being and doing the same things that any other child could do. She played "chase" with friends while on crutches before she got a "new leg." Her mother took over her therapy and was like a "drill sergeant." Her goal? "Don't be a wimp." Carolyn says, "My mother threw me in the Lion's Den. I have this bravery because of it. I always think, 'Just do it.'"**

**As you watch Carolyn in front of the sanctuary participating in the service as a lector or worship assistant, giving the children's message, serving communion, or singing in the choir, you would never know that she has an artificial leg. Instead, you are impressed by the smile on her face and the gentle and kind enthusiasm in her voice.**

**Carolyn sums up her life, "Our faith strengthened after the accident. What else did we have to rely on? My mom gave me what I needed, not what I wanted. She was that strong. Where could that strength have come from, if not from God? I try to do the same in my life."**

**And Carolyn does. She's always willing to help where needed. She enjoys being in the choir, not because she's a great vocalist, but because it gives her a reason to be at church every Sunday. "It's important to have something to do at church, something to be responsible for, something that people are counting on you to be there for. Everyone should do something."**