



# MEET THE MURADS: GIVING IT ALL TO GOD

*By Niki Rutledge | Photos courtesy of Louis and Claire Murad*

**I**n the quiet serenity of Lake Ray Hubbard near Rockwall, Texas, Louis and Claire Murad reflect on a life rich in Faith and family, and one that is a testament to the transformative power of surrendering to God's plan.

The Murads' Dallas roots run deep, particularly in the Catholic school community. Louis' mother attended St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School (STA) and Ursuline Academy of Dallas (Ursuline Dallas), and she taught at Ursuline Dallas for 17 years. Claire's parents both attended Holy Trinity Catholic School (HTCS); her father then attended Jesuit College Preparatory School (Jesuit Dallas) and her mother attended Ursuline Dallas. Like his mother, Louis attended STA, and then he went on to Jesuit Dallas. After graduating high school, he did his undergraduate work at Southern Methodist University (SMU), majoring in English. He earned a scholarship to play the trumpet and was a member of the SMU Mustang band! Claire grew up in the parish of St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church (St. Mark's) in Plano, Texas. She attended J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas, and graduated from Texas A&M University (TAMU) in College Station, Texas.

Louis and Claire met on a blind date on Ash Wednesday in 1987. They dated for nine months before marrying in

July of 1988 at All Saints Catholic Church (All Saints) in Plano, Texas, where a family friend and priest presided. Louis and Claire have the ultimate marriage role models in their parents! Louis shared, "Claire's parents were married for 64 years before her father passed away, and my parents celebrated their 65th anniversary in January!"

Through their 35 years together, Louis and Claire have been blessed with four children who are now "grown and flown." Caitlin (31) continued the family legacy of graduating from Ursuline Dallas and was married last year to Tyler Lynch. Marty (28) graduated from Jesuit Dallas and has been married to his wife Britt for almost four years. Christa (26) and Carolyn (25) both graduated from Lovejoy High School in Lovejoy, Texas. Both grew up attending The Pines Catholic Camp in Big Sandy, Texas, as campers and counselors. Louis and Claire told us, "We cannot tell you what a positive impact it had on their Faith formation. Our advice to all Catholic parents is to send your kids to the Pines!" Christa now teaches middle school religion and history at St. Mark's, and Carolyn lives in New York City, New York, and works for the Colgate toothpaste company. All four of the Murad children attended the University of Arkansas (UA) in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Marty was a slot receiver on the Razorback



football team! Louis shared, “We spent a lot of time driving to and from Arkansas over the last 15 years. But our children did very well, and they’re all gainfully employed now!”

The Murads’ Faith journey is made up of a tapestry of parishes. Louis related, “We have been members of many parishes because we have lived in six different houses.” After marrying at All Saints, they moved to east Dallas and made their home at St. Patrick Catholic Church (St. Patrick’s). When they moved to Richardson, they joined St. Mark’s and then attended St. Jude Catholic Church (St. Jude) after relocating to Lucas, Texas. Another move placed them in Rowlett, Texas, where they joined Sacred Heart Catholic Parish (Sacred Heart). Louis shared, “Each parish was a wonderful experience and had a great community.” Four years ago, the Murads returned to St. Patrick’s. They told us, “It has been wonderful to come back home to St. Patrick’s and reconnect with our old friends and make new friends as well.”

Louis and Claire love St. Patrick’s. They related, “It’s a very diverse community, and it’s wonderful to get to know people with different heritages and backgrounds.” They enjoy the many types of Masses, from traditional to contemporary, and that marriages and birthdays are blessed each month. They also love that Baptisms are performed during Mass and told us,



“Everyone gets to welcome our newest members as a community!” Most important to the Murads is the 24-hour Perpetual Adoration the parish offers. Louis shared, “It is a true gift to be able to pray in the presence of the exposed Blessed Sacrament at any time of day or night,” adding, “Claire and I are cradle Catholics, and our Faith means everything to us.”

Louis and Claire are both active in parish ministries. Louis is a third-degree Knight of Columbus and a member of the Regnum Christi movement through the Legionaries of Christ. He also participates in a weekly men’s Scripture reflection. Claire serves on the team leading the Walking with Purpose Women’s Bible Study. Together, they attend a monthly dinner and Rosary with other couples. They are active with the Young Marrieds Group, which is a group of friends who started a Bible study in the late 80s when they were all newlyweds. Louis joked, “We still keep the name of the group even though we are not so young anymore, but we are all still married!”

Louis and Claire are proud owners and operators of Murad Auctions, which they consider to be a ministry. Murad Auctions works with nonprofit organizations, schools, and medical foundations to raise money for important causes. Louis related, “We cherish the opportunity to make a living doing something wonderful for others. We have learned to dedicate our business to the Lord and let Him guide our decisions and our interactions with

our clients,” adding, “When we did this, our business started to flourish.”

Louis’ journey into the auction world is as inspiring as the causes he supports. In February of 2000 after earning his auctioneer license, he was working for an international auction company based in London when he got a call from his children’s school, St. Patrick’s Catholic School (SPS). The school needed a local auctioneer for its annual gala and asked him for recommendations. Louis volunteered but was initially turned down because he was a parent at the school. After a change of heart, the school let Louis conduct the event. The auction was so successful that the school immediately asked him to do the auction again the following year. Louis told us, “I had helped them raise more money than they ever had before, and they told me they would even pay me the second year!” In addition to a paycheck, the second auction was made even more memorable because the family dog Coco was purchased there! Louis related, “Claire kept raising her hand to bid, but I ignored her until finally someone shouted from the crowd that Claire was bidding!”

Since then, Murad Auctions has taken off! From conducting a couple of auctions the first year to ten auctions the second year, the business continued to grow and is now managing nearly 300 events annually, including ones for most of the Catholic schools in the Dallas Fort Worth area. Their son Marty and daughter Christa have embraced



the family business and are auctioneers as well! Louis and Claire related, “We are very blessed in our business and blessed to have the opportunity to give back and see great organizations raise money for wonderful causes that change people’s lives.” They give all the credit to God, telling us, “We turned the company over to the Lord. That is when everything changed, and it became successful. We felt peaceful about running it with the Lord as the new CEO.”

Faith has helped Louis and Claire navigate life’s many challenges. From family illnesses to business decisions, they have relied on the power of prayer and listening to God’s answers. Louis shared, “Through surrendering my life, my family, and my business to God and listening to His Word and following the path He has planned for me, we have witnessed many miracles.” They also lean on their favorite saints for guidance. Louis follows the model of

St. Louis de Montfort and his love of the Rosary and devotion to Our Lady. Claire’s favorite saint is St. Therese, the Little Flower, and embodies her message: “Do small things with great love.” Claire shared, “Her Little Way is simple if we just try to love the people who cross our path each day.”

Living on Lake Ray Hubbard, Louis and Claire love being out on the water. They also enjoy biking, tennis, pickleball, and watching beautiful sunsets by the fire pit. True to his Dallas roots, Louis is a devoted Cowboys fan and hopes this year is “their year!”

Louis and Claire would like to thank the sponsors of this magazine for helping to spread the Good Word!

Through the years, Louis and Claire Murad remain anchored in love, guided by Faith, and bound by a commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. Their journey together inspires their message to us: Trust God and follow His plan.



**Do you know a fellow parish member who has a story to share?**

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