



...AND THE DARKNESS  
HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.”

JOHN 1:5

## DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,

I'd like to underscore the urgency of the mission the Lord has entrusted to us and ask for your help. People's eternity depends on our response to the Lord's command to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Mt. 28:19).

These are the words of several people prior to coming to Discovering Christ.

*"The burdens of the world were crushing me"*

*"I felt an emptiness"*

*"We never discussed our personal relationship with God or Jesus in our marriage"*

*"I was just going through the motions at Mass—putting in my time and leaving my faith at the doorstep on the way out."*

*"My eyes were opened to the secular world of temptation after having same-sex partners from college up to 40 years"*

*"God was more or less non-existent in my life"*

Each of these people were fortunate to be invited to Discovering Christ, where they found hope and peace in relationship with Jesus Christ.

However, there are thousands of people in our communities that are losing hope right now. This is not just an anonymous demographic category of "ex-Catholics" or religious "nones" but they are our neighbors, our friends, our family members.

### You can help the lost find hope in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

ChristLife's mission is to help as many people as possible come to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and **we cannot do it without you**. Resource sales and conference income pays a portion of our expenses (about 40%) but we have to raise the rest—a substantial sum.

It is people like you, friends whose support allows our missionary staff to evangelize using the ChristLife courses, produce excellent evangelization resources, and train parish leaders to evangelize.

**Evangelizing others is a spiritual work of mercy that is urgently needed now** in this Advent and Christmas season. The salvation of the people we know and love is at stake.

**Can you respond today?** Will you make a donation and partner with ChristLife to evangelize and actively invite the lost, the strayed, those in darkness to come to know the Light of the World? **A year end gift of \$100, \$500, \$1000 or more will bring light to those in darkness!**

Inside you will see the fruit of transformed lives and parishes. Your partnership makes all of this possible. May your Advent and Christmas season be filled with wonder as you recall the great love of God made man!

Your brother in Christ,

Dave Nodar  
Director

PS- As a team we pray daily for the requests of our partners. Please write your prayer intentions in the enclosed envelope and we will pray for your loved ones who need the light of the Gospel. Please also pray for us!

“THE LIGHT SHINES  
IN THE DARKNESS...



# WALK STRAIGHT, PAY ATTENTION TO NO ONE, AND GET HOME QUICKLY!

BY: CHRISTINE, ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH, CLARKSVILLE, MD



Beyond that bare minimum, I would not venture. I stayed firmly within the boundaries of my Sunday pew, leaving that safari into the unknown territory of fellowship and missionary discipleship to far more confident souls. But it just wasn't enough for God. Within the depths of my soul, I felt Christ quietly calling me to know Him better.

I remember hearing the invitation for Discovering Christ. Curiosity, and the assurance of an easy escape if necessary, drew me in (not to mention the lure of a free meal that this tired mommy would not have to prepare herself!) Thus started a wonderful adventure...Yes, a safari of sorts, but it was I who was being pursued...by a loving God.

The thought-provoking video series and the ensuing conversations became a highlight of my week. The fellow travelers at my table had all started from different points in their faith journeys, and the questions and insights that each brought contributed to the deeper understanding which we all were gaining of who Christ is and who we are to Him. At some point I was lit up by the Holy Spirit, and I haven't looked back.

Leaving Mass now, there is no walking straight, paying attention to no one, or heading home too quickly. I relish my newfound friends and belonging to a community of faith. Through the horizontal arms of the cross, I am now forever connected with those around me, not just here, but wherever I go, carrying the love of Christ readily to others.

When I was a child, my mother taught me this very important rule of safety, the very same rule her own mother taught her to observe when walking home from school. It is an effective means by which one can avoid much unnecessary inconvenience. Nowhere in my life had I perfected the practice of this rule better than when leaving Mass!

Walk straight, pay attention to no one, and get home quickly. I had it down.

Like good cradle Catholics, my husband and I dutifully attended Sunday Mass, enrolled our four children in Religious Ed., and made certain they received all applicable Sacraments. Beyond that, I did little to develop my faith or to interact with any of my fellow parishioners. I had the vertical part of the cross (my relationship with God) down pretty well, or so I thought. The horizontal part of the cross, my relationship with those around me? Well, I offered the sign of peace at every Mass. Wasn't that enough?

ChristLife equips Catholics for the essential work of evangelization so that everyone might personally encounter Jesus Christ and be transformed into His missionary disciples.

## STAFF

**Dave Nodar**  
*Director*

**Leo Rudegear**  
*Assistant Director*

**Peter Ascosi**  
*Assistant Director*

**Dianne Davis**  
*New York Regional Director*

**Jennifer King**  
*Communications Director*

**James Lohrmann**  
*IT and Customer Support*

## VOLUNTEER STAFF

Mary Giesey  
Linda Holt  
Ely Nodar  
Marg Oehrli  
Vince Pindell

ChristLife  
600 Cooks Lane  
Baltimore, MD 21229

1-888-498-8474 (toll-free)  
info@christlife.org  
www.christlife.org

 facebook.com/ChristLifeOrg

 twitter.com/ChristLifeInc

 youtube.com/ChristLifeMinistry

## WHERE HAVE WE BEEN?

ChristLife has been traveling in the last half of 2017 for training conferences and other exciting projects! Take a look...



**SEPTEMBER 2017**  
Diocese of Steubenville  
Training Conference



**OCTOBER 2017**  
Diocese of Bridgeport  
Training Conference



**OCTOBER 2017**  
Video shoots in NY, NJ,  
PA, and MD!



**NOVEMBER 2017**  
Archdiocese of Denver  
Training Conference

**AUGUST 2017**  
Mexico City meetings  
with Catholic leaders

# CHRISTLIFE YOUNG ADULTS

ChristLife continues to help young adults in the Archdiocese of Baltimore encounter the love of Jesus Christ. Young adults and young families from the community hosted their annual retreat in September, reflecting on Isaiah 43:1, "I have called you by name." Dave Nodar, Fr. Collin Poston, Marg Oehrli, and Pete Ascosi shared talks on finding our identity in Jesus Christ.



## ST. PAUL CHURCH REFLECTIONS ON CHRISTLIFE

BY: MONICA WALTON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION & LITURGY AT ST. PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH, FLOWOOD MS



ChristLife has been transformational to me personally and to our parish as a whole. As an individual, I did not learn any new theology per se, but I have thrived on the great experience of

dialogue with so many people about our faith journeys. We all have life struggles, but we are never alone. In the past, these conversations typically resided within my family and my small circle of church friends. Now, that piece of my faith has come alive and I feel my love of Christ and relationship with Him is an obvious, more outward part of me.

I have been particularly elated by the Sharing Christ series. I have found those sessions to be the most life-giving. I leave walking on a cloud! My joy is indescribable and uncontainable. I credit the time we spend committed to praise and worship. I do feel the Presence in those hours, in that room, in those people during the moments of sincere, Spirit-filled prayer and praise.

On the parish level, so many people seem to have been awakened. Where there was once a gloomy, melancholy spirit, I now see and feel true joy and peace. It is obvious. It is contagious! We see it in the increase in participation and ministry. We see

and feel great joy in celebrating Mass. Our focus from the first cohort we held has been to encourage all who participated in Discovering Christ to personally invite someone else to participate.

We made invitation cards that read:

I, (printed name here), personally invite you to Discovering Christ. I had a wonderful experience, and I believe you will be blessed by it, as well.

The next sessions begin on (dates here) and include 7 Thursday nights, plus a Saturday Retreat.

I will be happy to discuss it and help you register.  
Call me @ \_\_\_\_\_  
Email me @ \_\_\_\_\_  
Register @ [saintpaulcatholicchurch.com](mailto:saintpaulcatholicchurch.com)

People simply share their experience and tell another person why they recommend it. No pressure. No sales. No preaching. Everyone can invite someone.

This year, we moved outside our Catholic community and invited the local residents to Discovering Christ through an ad in the local papers and a published news story. We got a call the very next day from a woman who read the story and said, "I just feel very

drawn to this. I think I need to do it!" And she is!

One of the beautiful features of ChristLife is that people of any age, any level of learning, any stage in faith can grow with it. When I think I have explored my faith fully, I am in trouble! I can never pray enough and love enough. I desire to be overwhelmed by my love with my Jesus—His love for me and my love for Him. It will never be enough in this life. I so look forward to perfect communion with Him for eternity—God please let it be so!

I have seen extremely shy people come to realize they are loved and unique, and that they matter to our community. Each one is necessary to make us whole. I have seen arrogant, "holier-than-thou" people begin to chisel away the walls they have built, and to humbly come before the Lord in surrender and appreciation of the gifts others have to bring. I have seen the elderly come alive by the Faith of younger folks. I have seen the youngers truly appreciate the life experiences of the older parishioners and have greater respect for them.

It is so beautiful to see eight people of various ages, schooling, social status and lifestyles come together around a table and grow to know and love each other. Stereotypes are dissolved. Everyone is moved by some thing

in ChristLife. Everyone has been moved a little out of their comfort zone. What a blessing. I believe this is why ChristLife is fruitful. We become the true body of Christ — His community!



**110,000**  
PEOPLE



**900**  
PARISHES



**39**  
U.S. STATES



**12**  
COUNTRIES

HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOUNTER JESUS CHRIST THROUGH THE CHRISTLIFE EVANGELIZATION PROCESS SINCE DECEMBER 2009

## ChristLife Around the World!

Parishes and ministries around the world have implemented the ChristLife evangelization process to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with their communities. Here are a few places we've been this year...



### HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT CHRISTLIFE'S MISSION AND HELP THE LOST FIND HOPE IN JESUS CHRIST?

- 1** **Make** a one-time contribution or become a monthly donor online at [christlife.org/donate](http://christlife.org/donate)
- 2** **Pray** for the work of ChristLife and the parishes using the ChristLife evangelization process.

